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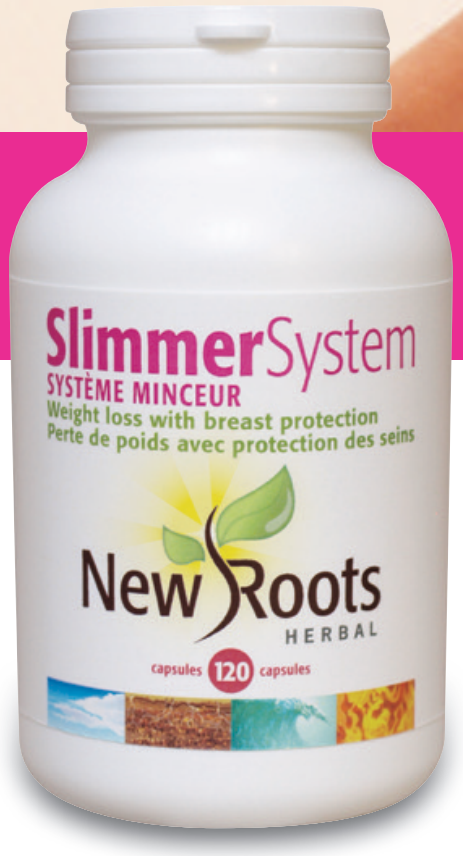
don't give our power away

Yes to BC-STV
take back your power

Watershed election
the power of now



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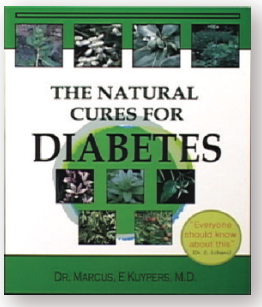

"Natural Cures for Diabetes" *(Authored by Dr. M. Kuypers,91pages)*

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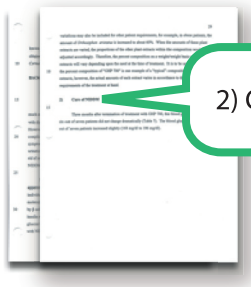
From the moment this 91 paged book was first published by Human Love Publishing Co. in 2005, it began to draw keen attention of many diabetes experts and doctors around the world, as well as their patients. The book has been translated and published in China, Korea, Japan, US, and Australia since then. Researchers at the University of Calgary, among other universities, declared that "P-700, which is the natural treatment recommended in the book is not just a symptomatic treatment, but a 'cure' for Type II diabetes, and it restores normalcy for 70% of patients."

University of Calgary officials (UTI)

A U of C treatment helps most Type II diabetics.

"This remedy will restore near normalcy for 70% of Type II diabetics."



2) Cure of NIDDM

University of Calgary document about P-700

National Diabetic Associations and Pharmaceutical Associations of various countries declared that P700 is ***an ideal cure*** (Chinese Nanjing Diabetes Associations)" and that "***This cures more than 70% of patients*** (Korean Diabetes Association and Pharmacists Associations)."

Many medical doctors around the world are using the P700 treatment on themselves, as well as, recommending this natural treatment to their patients and publishing scientific studies on their findings.
Dr. Sichel says "***This is a path finding discovery in the reversal of diabetes***" "***Hope for the complete cure finally begins***" says Dr. Ho, and Dr. Echano says "***I know that this is highly recommended by major international diabetes associations.***"

The efficacy and safety of this treatment is well recognized and established internationally. The Chinese equivalent of the US FDA issued an approval after rigorously performing animal, toxicology, and clinical tests on the products based on this natural treatment. A few governments followed suit. These approvals and permits cover 40% of world population now, and these products have been sold in more than 50 countries. The most reputed Chinese University, Tsinghua University, not only approved of this natural treatment, but also became the representative distributor in China.

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Common Ground Publishing Corp.
204-4381 Fraser St.
Vancouver, BC V5V 4G4 Canada

100% owned and operated by Canadians.
Published 12 times a year in Canada.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011171
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to
Circulation Dept. 204-4381 Fraser St.
Vancouver, BC V5V 4G4
ISSN No. 0824-0698

Copies printed: 70,000
Over 250,000 readers per issue
Survey shows 3 to 4 readers/copy.

Annual subscription is $60 (US$50) for one year (12 issues). Single issues are $6 (specify issue #). Payable by cheque, Visa, MasterCard, Interac or money order.

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Photo: Tim G (CC)
Design: Peter Sircom Bromley

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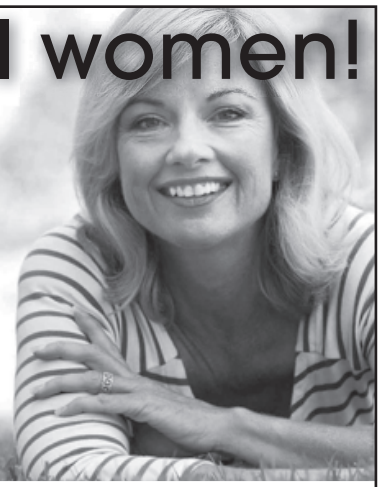

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It's time to burst the Ponziceutical bubble

DRUG BUST *Alan Cassels*

It is time the nation woke up and realized that it's not the armed robbers or drug dealers who cause the most economic harm; it's the white collar criminals living in the most expensive homes who have the most impressive resumés who harm us the most.

– Harry Markopolos

AN OLD SAW in investing states that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Had it been taken, that advice would certainly have helped those investors who, eager for quick and substantial profits, shovelled their money to Bernard Madoff. With as much as $65 billion US having been flushed away through Madoff's infamous chicanery – the biggest Ponzi scheme apparently ever foisted on the public – his fame was secured not by the uniqueness of the scheme, but by its size.

Yet compared to the $900 billion generated annually from prescription drug consumption globally – an empire built on confidence, belief, trust and not a little bit of hubris – Madoff's Ponzi scheme looks like a mere schoolboy's trick.

You see, the same sort of confidence that kept the investors flocking to Madoff is at work keeping people returning to a healthcare system where the alleged highest returns seem to be generated from people ingesting pharmaceuticals. Let's face it; the claims you hear in drug ads promising simple, chemical cures for profound illnesses are more often than not too good to be true.

A Ponzi scheme pays investors not from any real profit, but with the contributions of previous investors. By pointing to incredible rates of return, Madoff's scheme was able to entice more and more investors (even some famous ones who should have known better) to give him their money. Essentially, as long as people believe in the scheme and news spreads of the wonderful returns (to attract new investors), the scheme can last forever – or at least until the shell game is revealed and the whole enterprise collapses. The prescription drug world is buoyed by a Madoff-style belief system that underpins much of what is keeping this Ponziceutical scheme afloat.

I consulted an expert on these affairs. Harriet is a professor of social science at York University in Toronto and an anthropologist with a shrewd inside take on the Ponziceutical business. Along with Danielle Allard, she is co-author of the paper *Evidence for Caution: Women and Statin Use,* which, in my estimation, offers some of the best, current information about cholesterol-lowering drugs. While Rosenberg is currently writing a paper on Ponziceuticals, she points to David Lee, a graduate student in communications at the University of South Florida, as being the first person to coin the term. Excerpts from our conversation follow:

A Ponzi scheme is a confidence game and part of that confidence is to assume that the industry and regulators are looking after you. Terence Young's new book, *Death by Prescription,* talks about his daughter who died at 15 from taking Prepulsid, a popular heartburn drug. He poignantly illustrates that caution and protection are no longer high priorities of our regulators.

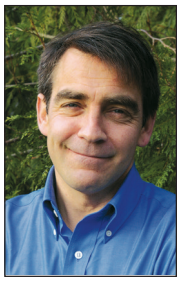
Alan Cassels: What is it about the term "Ponziceutical" that captured your imagination?

Harriet Rosenberg: The idea is that there is a willingness to believe in something too good to be true. In terms of what's happening in the economy, I started watching how the messaging system works, reading about Ponzi schemes and Madoff. I noticed the language of economic meltdown, the discussions of "toxic assets," the "health" of the economy and so on. There are many parallels to healthcare. You don't want to overstate things, but the language around the economic meltdown provides a compelling

perspective on how to view the pharmaceutical industry.

AC: What led you to make these parallels?

HR: My main interest stems from the research I have done on cholesterol-lowering drugs. You need to know about what happened with Vytorin. This is a newer cholesterol-lowering drug that combines simvastatin and ezetimibe and it was exceptionally effective in lowering cholesterol. It was widely prescribed in the US. It was studied in a trial called the "Enhance Trial" to see if it could stop plaque from expanding in arteries, but the trial results were mysteriously delayed for 18 months causing somewhat of an uproar. Basically, they eventually found that the plaque regression was not statistically significant.



Alan Cassels is a drug policy researcher at the University of Victoria and author of The ABCs of Disease Mongering: An epidemic in 26 Letters.

AC. They basically proved the drug didn't work. What happened next?

HR: Carrie Smith Cox, CEO of Schering-Plough, which made Vytorin, is alleged to have dumped 900,000 of her company's shares, worth $28 million, before the results were published.

AC: Like what happens in a real Ponzi scheme, she got out right before the trick was up, right? Ponziceutical indeed.

HR: Yes and this led to a congressional investigation and a lot of discussion about insider trading. Is this not an example of where the two discourses intersect?

AC: You mean, she would have been hyping the asset, like confidence men such as Ponzi or Madoff, but then got out when the going was good?

HR. And consider this: the recent purchase of Wyeth, one of the world's largest drug companies, by Pfizer, the world's largest drug company, is significant because the $22 billion needed to do this deal is in part coming from the very financial institutions being bailed out by federal money – taxpayer money, that is. So what are the implications here?

AC: Now you've written about the cholesterol-statin hypothesis, discussing the weak evidence base, aggressive marketing and inattention to harm when prescribing statins to women. Would I overstate things if I said your hypothesis that lowering cholesterol with drugs is a massive Ponzi scheme?

HR: Lately, there has been lots of public questioning of the cholesterol hypothesis and it's clear that the edifice is starting to crumble. There is a paradigm shift underway. Maybe it started with the January 2008 cover story in *Business Week* and a long article that said that cholesterol drugs weren't doing any good for most people who did not have heart disease. Recently, Matthew Herper at *Forbes* magazine pointed out that the "cholesterol hypothesis" is being contested by the inflammation hypothesis.

AC: What do you mean?

HR: The newest cholesterol drug on the market, AstraZeneca's Crestor, does lower cholesterol, but it is being positioned as being effective for its anti-inflammatory properties. In my mind, there are lots of ways that pharma marketization of biomedicine looks like Ponziceuticaliztion. This is characterized by market expansion driven by fear mongering and an endless increasing of primary prevention targets. The recent JUPITER trial essentially said that healthy people should be taking statins if they have high CRP (c-reactive protein) and all of these things are feeding the need for relentless system growth. The conflicts of interest in that trial are often ignored by the press. This is an industry-sponsored trial and the lead investigator has a patent on the CRP test.

In addition, the benefit is very modest but was described in extravagant boosterish language and the risks have not been sufficiently aired. It would take 243 people to be treated by this drug to prevent one heart attack. Yet for every 167 exposed to the drug, there would be one new case of diabetes. Wouldn't diet, exercise and quitting smoking be a better option?

AC: But new uses for drugs means even more capital entering the pharma system. Does that not seem to add weight to the Ponziceutical hypothesis?

HR: Yes and there is this incremental sense that everything is fine. A Ponzi scheme is a confidence game and part of that confidence is to assume that the industry and regulators are looking after you. Terence Young's new book, *Death by Prescription*, talks about his daughter who died at 15 from taking Prepulsid, a popular heartburn drug. He poignantly illustrates that caution and protection are no longer high priorities of our regulators.

AC: Do we have enough people who can see behind the hype and who can expose wrongdoing?

HR: In the case of Bernard Madoff, there was this one guy Harry Markopolos who did the math and said what Madoff was selling was actually too good to be true. He kept going to the SEC saying something is wrong here. Nobody would listen to him. Everyone wants to believe in the structure. Terence Young is like Markopolos – documenting the harm that comes from aggressive marketing, overstating benefits and failing to make harms of drugs understood by *continued p.12...*

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Exploring food and nutrition

NUTRISPEAK Vesanto Melina MS, RD

WHILE WE can certainly find some pretty absurd stuff on the Internet, I marvel at the ease with which we can now find facts that, in past decades, would have taken months of searching. The following websites are rich in information:

For accurate information about vitamins and minerals, visit the Linus Pauling Institute's Micronutrient Information Center at http://lpi.oregonstate.edu/infocenter/

If you're curious about how much calcium is in a cup of kale or wonder about any other nutrient in any other food, search through the USDA National Nutrient Database. Just type in the name of the food and away you go. www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/search/

For events, history, travel, articles or news, check out the website of the International Vegetarian Union at http:ivu.org

For other travel directories related to food and B&Bs, etc., visit www.happycow.net and www.vegdining.com

You will find excellent nutrition articles at www.veganhealth.org/

The Vegetarian Resource Group is an online magazine offering carefully researched information: www.vrg.org/

Stay current about various topics by signing up for Google Alerts. You can sign up to receive info via email about the topic of veganism, for example, or any topic you choose.

The website of my Kelowna-based co-author Brenda Davis offers resources, articles and recipes: http://brendadavisrd.com

My website (with thanks to Cam Doré) is http://www.nutrispeak.com Under "articles," you can find a few of my previous Common Ground columns.

BC groups and events

The following local groups host events and dine-outs and serve healthy food. They also offer presentations, volunteer opportunities, regular newsletters and an opportunity to socialize:

EarthSave BC: www.earthsave.ca or 604-731-5885 (Vancouver office).

The Vancouver Island Vegetarian Association in Victoria: http://islandveg.com/ or 250-380-6383. For information about raw events, call 250-721-0268.

Raw BC is a lively group that extends far beyond Vancouver: http://rawbc.org or 778-737-8852.

Farther afield

If you're more the travelling type, you might enjoy the Summerfest event that runs from July 8 to12 at the Conference Center at Pitt-Johnstown on the University of Pittsburgh campus at Johnstown, PA. http://vegetariansummerfest.org/

Books and DVDs

For those who prefer to explore topics through books or DVDs, the library systems are impressive in the way they stay up-to-date. A search for the word "vegetarian" in the Vancouver Public Library catalogue (www.vpl.ca) shows between 579 and 872 items, depending on how you set up your search. It's fun to visit the main branch and see the rows of cookbooks and nutrition books on file. They also have 94 vegan items and 69 titles under the subject of raw foods.

The Greater Victoria Public Library is a close second, with 437 titles when you type in the word "vegetarian." http://gvpl.ca

At the Fraser Valley Regional Library, which serves the valley as far as Boston Bar, a search using the word "vegetarian" offers 221 items, including 12 DVDs. With the word "vegan," you'll find 39 books and DVDs and if you search for "raw food," you can browse through 17 items. www.fvrl.bc.ca

All of these libraries include our nutrition classics Becoming Vegetarian, Becoming Vegan (with Brenda Davis), Raising Vegetarian Children (with Jo Stepaniak), the Food Allergy Survival Guide and the new Raw Food Revolution Diet. You'll also find the elusive and much loved Cooking Vegetarian, co-authored with the excellent chef Joseph Forest.

As an aside, websites related to the May 12 referendum include www.stv.ca and www.citizensassembly.bc.ca Tuesday May 12 is your chance to vote for a better democratic system and to support the BC Citizen's Assembly's recommendation on electoral reform.

Vesanto Melina is a dietitian and author based in Langley, BC. After being in writer's hibernation for the last six months, she resumes offering consultations in mid-May. 604-882-6782.

Raw Food Revolution Diet

Friday June 5, 5-9 PM

Vesanto Melina offers a presentation on the Raw Food Revolution Diet. Saanich Fairgrounds near Victoria on Vancouver Island. For more information, email Jennifer and Joslynn at wearelivingraw@gmail.com

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Spies, lies & whistleblowers

by Annie Machon

MY NAME is Annie Machon and for six years in the 1990s, I was an Intelligence Officer (IO) in MI5*, the UK Security Service. In 1997, along with my ex-partner and fellow spy, David Shayler, I blew the whistle on the crimes and incompetence of the British intelligence agencies. In doing this, we had to give up our careers, go on the run across Europe, live in hiding for a year and then spend two years in exile in Paris.

We, and many of our friends, family, supporters and other journalists, were intimidated, arrested and put on trial for trying to expose the crimes committed by the spies. David was imprisoned twice: once in France in 1998 when the British government failed to extradite him and again in 2002 after he voluntarily returned to the UK. He was put on trial and convicted of a breach of the draconian Official Secrets Act – all this for blowing the whistle on the crimes of the spies.

I am now a speaker, political activist and writer and despite the British government's best efforts to suppress my book, *Spies, Lies and Whistleblowers*, in which I wrote about our experiences, it was published in 2005.

During my tour of Canada, I shall be speaking about the role of intelligence agencies in the current era of the unending "War on Terror," how they monitor us and the implications for our democracies. The "War on Terror" is, of course, predicated on the tragic events of 9/11.

In the name of protecting national security, spy agencies are being given sweeping new powers and resources. Their intelligence has been politicized to build a case for the disastrous war in Iraq. They are failing to stop terrorist attacks and they continue to collude in illegal acts of internment and torture, euphemistically called "extraordinary rendition." Most Western democracies have already given the spies so many new powers that we are effectively living in police states. Throughout my tour, I will be asking the question, "As an informed community, what can we do about this?"

I shall also be telling the story of my time as a spy and the whistle-blowing years. I will also talk about what it was like to be recruited and work for MI5 and the crimes of MI5 and MI6, which include:

- MI5 files held on government ministers
- Illegal MI5 phone taps
- IRA bombs that could and should have been prevented
- Lying to the government
- The 1994 bombing of the Israeli embassy in London by Mossad, the national intelligence agency of Israel, and the subsequent wrongful imprisonment of two innocent people
- The illegal MI6 assassination attempt against Colonel Gaddafi of Libya

Intelligence has been politicized to build a case for the disastrous war in Iraq. They are failing to stop terrorist attacks and they continue to collude in illegal acts of internment and torture, euphemistically called "extraordinary rendition."

The illegal MI6 plot to assassinate Colonel Gaddafi in1996 was the primary reason Shayler and I blew the whistle. MI6 had funded a Libyan military intelligence officer, codenamed Tunworth, to organize the attack using a group of Islamic extremists with links to Al-Qaeda. The attack occurred as Gaddafi was returning from Sirte in a car cavalcade and an explosion occurred beneath the wrong car. While Gaddafi obviously survived, innocent people were killed in the ensuing security shoot-out.

As well as being an unethical and highly reckless act in such a volatile part of the world, the operation was also illegal under UK law. MI6 is supposed to be governed by the 1994 Intelligence Services Act. Under this law, MI6 officers can have immunity for illegal acts carried out abroad (the real "James Bond" licence to kill), but only if they have prior written permission from their political master – the Foreign Secretary. In this case, they had no such permission.

We repeatedly tried to give evidence about the Gadaffi plot to the government; to this day, it has refused to accept it, even though an MI6 document was leaked in 2000 proving the plot, and sources in French and US intelligence were aware of it. When Shayler exposed this crime in 1998, he was thrown in prison in Paris because the British government tried (and failed) to extradite him. There was huge pressure for an enquiry, but the government managed to spin its way out of one.

I will also be talking about how to go "on the run," what it's like to cross the secret state and how to survive and the lack of accountability and oversight. The spies literally get away with murder.

The current situation

Despite glaring intelligence failures, both in the run-up to the Iraq war and in a number of recent terrorist attacks on the UK, our government still continues to grant more resources and powers to the spies. During my talk, I will also address the implications of these new laws for our democracy and the failure of the mainstream media to effectively hold the spies to account.

What can we do? We have a probably limited window of opportunity to halt this slide towards totalitarianism. It's time for us to reclaim our democracies.

**The Security Service, commonly known as MI5 (Military Intelligence, Section 5),[1] is the United Kingdom's counter-intelligence and security agency and is part of the intelligence machinery alongside the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS or MI6), Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) and the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS).*

For more information about this issue, please visit www.anniemachon.com and vancouver911.truth.org

Annie Machon on tour

Vancouver: Friday, May 22, 7pm
Vancouver Public Library, Alice Mackay Rm., 350 West Georgia St.
Tickets: $15 available through www.vancouver911truth.org
Victoria: Sunday, May 24, 7pm
Alix Goolden Performance Hall
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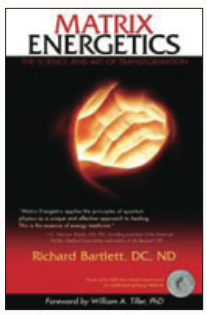

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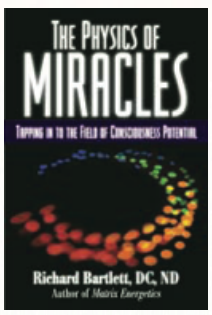

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Level 3, Aug 26-27

Growing Citizens

can gardening change the world?

by Joanna Ashworth

Fertile ground makes good things grow

WHAT DRAWS you to the garden? Have you noticed lately that one of our most fundamental and pleasurable activities – cultivating food and flowers – has been discovered anew by the denizens of our towns and cities here in BC? Urban farming, guerilla gardening, community supported agriculture and other acts of community building have now become acts of solidarity that offer nourishment for a community, and in some instances, providing places of physical and spiritual healing.

There are many moving stories about how the simple act of planting flowers in previously uncared for public ground, sharing a row of vegetables grown in your back yard with complete strangers, or helping whole neighbourhoods develop a sense of pride in their street life have become profound acts of citizenship. For some, it is not so selfless. For some of your neighbours, the desire to garden may simply be motivated by a craving for beauty in an otherwise dreary, urban landscape. For others, gardening is deeply rooted in principles of ecological engagement and connection to the land.

Free Talk **Gardening as a Catalyst for Civic Engagement** – Wed., May 6, 6:30-8:30pm, Simon Fraser University, Wosk Centre for Dialogue, 580 W. Hastings. Seating limited. Pre-registration required at www.sfu.ca/dialogue/study+practice/workshop.html More info: 778-782-7925.

Bring your perspective to what promises to be a fertile conversation. It just might get you back to the garden in ways you had never imagined.

On May 6, SFU's Dialogue Programs hosts part two of a three-part series of public dialogues entitled "Heart of a Citizen." This series is intended to explore why people make the shift from focusing only on their private concerns to actively engaging in creating positive, social change in the public sphere.

The first session in the series began in early April with author and activist Paul Loeb who launched the conversation with riveting stories of well-known change makers. People whose imagination and persistence saw them prevail in spite of tough times and circumstances. Think Desmond Tutu, the archbishop of South Africa, the Dalai Lama, Rosa Parks and Gandhi. Loeb offered participants much to ponder and, in particular, challenged the myth that one person can't make a difference. He also confronted the rationale of "I don't know enough about a particular problem," noting that it isn't a legitimate reason to stay on the sidelines.

On May 6, the second session of the series presents three remarkable citizen gardeners, perhaps lesser known than the above-mentioned Nobel Laureates, but nonetheless effective at what they do: creating beauty and hope in public spaces.

Sylvia Holland is an urban planner and longtime street gardener. David Tracey is a garden designer and author of a new book, *Guerrilla Gardening: A Manualfesto* (New Society Publishers). Ward Teulon, otherwise known as "City Farm Boy" is also the founder of CityFarmBoy. The three speakers launch the dialogue with accounts of their own gardening adventures and the unique paths that led them each to embrace the garden and public life in equal measure. As Tracey sees it, "gardening is a an act of hope and… our natural birthright … it creates better cities and a safer planet."

Ordinary citizens have such untapped potential – skills, abilities and, most importantly, passion – and they want to become involved in making their cities and neighbourhoods better places. In response, SFU's Dialogue Programs are developing a new certificate program that will launch in September to train people to use civic engagement methods, founded upon principles that encourage effective citizen participation.

Advisors and supporters of the SFU program, including local government, community agencies and private organizations, recognize such engagement as an essential tool for a participatory democracy. In June, the third session of Heart of a Citizen will explore how festivals and the arts serve as vehicles for public learning and engagement.

So what do you think? Can gardeners change the world? Bring your perspective to what promises to be a fertile conversation. It just might get you back to the garden in ways you had never imagined.

Dr. Joanna Ashworth is the director of Dialogue Programs at Simon Fraser University.

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Drug Bust - from p.7

patients. These whistleblowers are exposing compromised regulatory systems like Health Canada and the FDA in the US – agencies that are in terrible conflicts of interests because they depend on industry user fees. There is the comparable experience of under-regulation despite warning after warning and the cumulative moral compromises that have allowed the system to reproduce. There is the confidence racket nature of it all, taking advantage of the aura of legitimacy to make excessive benefit claims without risk seem plausible, inevitable, natural.

AC: Will something burst the bubble of the pharmaceutical business?

HR: It's hard to know because what's interesting in the way the bubble burst with the financial meltdown is that nobody seemingly knew it was going to burst. None of the pundits predicted it. Where was the business press? And now, where is the health press? Why aren't reporters looking more deeply into this? Are they cheerleaders or are they asking the hard questions?

AC: Just like with the financial system, people are harmed by undersight. Is the potential harm of drugs getting the attention it deserves?

HR: Not at all. Look, we have a system in Canada that captures less than 10 percent of the population's experience with Adverse Drug Reactions. When you don't make collecting drug safety data a priority, you add measurably to the idea that drugs must be safe. And you get a situation like Terence Young's where a non-essential heartburn drug is found to cause deaths, but it is not immediately removed from the market. We need vigilant, proactive oversight for pharmaceutical drugs and medical devices to protect us from the very real "Toxic Assets" that these products are and to protect us from the confidence schemes that now dominate.

AC: Amen to that.

Alan Cassels is a drug policy researcher at the University of Victoria. For a further dose of skepticism, he recommends MP Terence Young's new book Death by Prescription: A Father Takes on his Daughter's Killer – The Multi-Billion-Dollar Pharmaceutical Industry. *The book details Young's battle with Big Pharma after the death of his daughter Vanessa due to a prescription drug. A federal Conservative, Young is currently introducing a motion in the House of Commons to create an independent drug safety agency in Canada.*

Bust - from p.6

Get a good head start

ON THE GARDEN PATH Carolyn Herriot

ORGANICS

BY NOW, most gardeners will have acquired their seeds for this year's garden. You can keep better track of seeds by filing them in a shoebox and separating them into three sections: cool weather, heat loving and winter food. Filing seed packets in alphabetical order and using recipe cards as dividers makes them easy to find and if you return leftover seeds to the shoebox, you won't reorder them by mistake next year.

Adding the "Four Secrets of Successful Soil Building" – compost, manure, leaves and seaweed – to the soil at the start of the growing season makes an incredible difference to the success of the food garden. In turn, feeding the soil web of life feeds plants growing within it. The best part is that all four of these organic soil amendments are free and freely available. If the beds are compacted, turn them under and wait four weeks before planting the garden to allow these amendments to become incorporated into the soil.

While the soil is moist, I do a major weeding around the garden, which prevents weeds from setting seed and makes the gardener's work so much lighter. At the end of the season, you can smother any new weeds with a thick layer of mulch – what I refer to as an organic weed and feed. This year, buttercups had crept up on me so I had to dig up and rework the entire area, incorporating lots of compost for better drainage.

Whereas March and April used to be good gardening months, we now have to wait for warmer conditions in June or July to plant or seed the garden. To get a head start on the season, I am grateful for my greenhouse, but if you don't have the luxury of a greenhouse you can improvise using cold frames or cloches. These can be made inexpensively from recycled wood and glass windows or 6ml. greenhouse plastic.

Container gardening is a good way of surviving a poor summer. Heat loving plants such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplant and basil fare well when grown in planters in full sun. Success depends upon a well- drained and fertile growing medium. Once roots fill the containers in late summer, weekly feedings of compost tea or liquid seaweed make a big difference to the yields.

I grow my food garden together with hedgerows of ornamental shrubs, flowers, grasses, herbs, small fruits and berries, all of which attract wildlife in large populations.

For good reason, monocultures don't exist in nature; they prohibit all the beneficial relationships between plant species. Large-scale monocultures attract pests and diseases fast, which is why ever-increasing inputs of pesticides are necessary. Moving related plants around in rotation prevents the build up of pesky problems by breaking the lifecycle of potential pests or diseases.

There's a lot to do in the garden this month now that the blossoms and the green violet swallows have finally appeared. The sprouted potatoes have been planted and the late season russets are being "chitted" (sprouted in a container before planting). All the cool weather plants – broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbages, Brussels sprouts, onions, leeks, lettuces, salad greens, beets and chard – are up and growing. The peas are in the ground now and climbing up their bamboo supports. Now's a good time to plant berries and fruit trees; divide perennial food plants such as globe artichokes, rhubarb and lovage; repot root bound mints; and feed container plants with your own version of Super Duper mix.

Happy gardening chores.

Carolyn Herriot is author of A Year on the Garden Path: A 52-Week Organic Gardening Guide. *She grows Seeds of Victoria at the Garden Path Centre where she teaches The Zero Mile Diet - Twelve Steps to Sustainable Homegrown Food Production and Growing an Edible Plant Business. www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath*

Super Duper Compost

Build a pile four-feet high and four-feet in diameter, alternating the following in six-inch layers: leaves, weeds (no seeds), herbaceous prunings, manure (can be fresh), grass clippings, spoiled hay, seaweed, lake algae, sawdust and chicken litter. Make it "Super Duper" by adding leaves from comfrey and nettle and strands of dried horsetail, if available. These plants contain valuable nutrients that make high quality compost. To prevent problems with rodents, do not include food waste.

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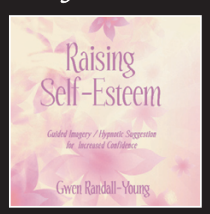

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Infinite possiblity

THE POWER OF NOW Eckhart Tolle

What about all those people who, it seems, actually want to suffer? I have a friend whose partner is physically abusive toward her and her previous relationship was of a similar kind. Why does she choose such men and why is she refusing to get out of that situation now? Why do so many people actually choose pain?

I KNOW that the word "choose" is a favourite New Age term, but it isn't entirely accurate in this context. It is misleading to say that somebody "chose" a dysfunctional relationship or any other negative situation in his or her life. Choice implies consciousness – a high degree of consciousness. Without it, you have no choice.

Choice begins the moment you disidentify from the mind and its conditioned patterns – the moment you become present. Until you reach that point, you are unconscious, spiritually speaking. This means that you are compelled to think, feel and act in certain ways according to the conditioning of your mind. That is why Jesus said, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

This is not related to intelligence in the conventional sense of the word. I have met many highly intelligent and educated people who were also completely unconscious, which is to say completely identified with their mind. In fact, if mental development and increased knowledge are not counterbalanced by a corresponding growth in consciousness, the potential for unhappiness and disaster is very great.

Your friend is stuck in a relationship with an abusive partner, and not for the first time. Why? No choice. The mind, conditioned as it is by the past, always seeks to recreate what it is familiar with. Even if it is painful, at least it is familiar. The mind always adheres to the known. The unknown is dangerous because it has no control over it. That's why the mind dislikes and ignores the present moment.

Present-moment awareness creates a gap not only in the stream of mind, but also in the past-future continuum. Nothing truly new and creative can come into this world except through that gap, that clear space of infinite possibility.

So your friend, being identified with her mind, may be recreating a pattern learned in the past in which intimacy and abuse were inseparably linked. Or, she may be acting out a mind pattern learned in early childhood according to which she is unworthy and deserves to be punished. It is possible, too, that she lives a large part of her life through the pain-body, which always seeks more pain on which to feed. Her partner has his own unconscious patterns, which complement hers.

Of course her situation is self-created, but who or what is the self that is doing the creating? A mental-emotional pattern from the past, no more. Why make a self out of it? If you tell her that she has chosen her condition or situation, you are reinforcing her state of mind identification. But is her mind pattern who she is? Is it her self? Is her true identity derived from the past?

Show your friend how to be the observing presence behind her thoughts and her emotions. Tell her about the pain-body and how to free herself from it. Teach her the art of inner-body awareness. Demonstrate to her the meaning of presence. As soon as she is able to access the power of the Now, and break from her conditioned past, she will have a choice.

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Fixing the inner hard drive

UNIVERSE WITHIN Gwen Randall-Young

SPIRITUALITY

One may understand the cosmos, but never the ego; the self is more distant than any star. – G. K. Chesterton

AS WE move along our evolutionary path and strive to attain higher levels of consciousness, we can learn a lot. We may read, listen to enlightened speakers, meditate and even enter therapy. We learn about ourselves and about how we want to be. We may even be making pretty good progress in our growth.

Then something happens. Something occurs that annoys us or that we perceive to be unfair. We have an issue with our child or an intimate partner. Suddenly, we are angry, hurt and perhaps critical or judgmental. We are worked up, to be sure, and that calm, Buddha-like equanimity evaporates.

What happened? It would seem that ego has made an unexpected – even uninvited – appearance. Seemingly just popped up out of nowhere. How can this happen after all the personal growth and spiritual work?

One explanation has to do with how our minds function. I like to think of the mind as a little like a computer. Our conscious mind is the word processing program. Our subconscious mind is like the hard drive. If there is a virus in our hard drive, we can hardly open a document and write a note to clean up the hard drive. The virus will continue to disrupt our programs until we can fix it.

It is known that many of our drives, needs and motivations originate in the subconscious, usually having been formed years ago. Often, survival strategies we needed or developed as children persist well into adulthood, whether or not they are still appropriate. Many ego impulses originate there.

So we can do lots of work with our word processing program: reading, learning, experiencing, forming intentions and making affirmations. We look at the "'documents" we have created and it all looks pretty good. We can surely talk the talk.

However, when our guard is down and something happens that hits a subconscious "nerve," a reaction comes swiftly, without even passing through our "word" or "consciousness processing program." Others may be surprised at our reaction, but perhaps not as much as we are for we thought we had evolved beyond such knee-jerk reactions.

In one sense, when these things happen, it is simply the universe shining a light on the places where we still need to work. There is still some inner healing that needs to happen so that the "security guard" ego does not have to behave like a threatened pit bull.

As previously stated, we cannot "fix" the subconscious with the conscious mind. We can work to overcome our reactions and change our behaviours, but in some cases that is like painting over rust. At first it all seems good, but one day the rust pops through again. The problem cannot be addressed at the surface level only. Some issues require attention at a deeper level.

Hypnotic techniques allow messages to be received at the deeper subconscious levels so that real change can occur.

Just as we need a special program to get into our computer's hard drive to eliminate viruses, we also need a special technique to get into the subconscious and clean things up. One excellent way to do this is with hypnosis.

Hypnotic techniques allow messages to be received at the deeper subconscious levels so that real change can occur. It allows one to bypass all the analysis, processing, self-doubt and self-sabotage that so often undermine our best intentions.

Ego certainly can be thought of as a virus in the hard drive of our consciousness. When it causes us to think, feel and react in ways that are counter-productive and out of alignment with who we perceive ourselves to be, it is time to take action.

Very often, clients express the frustration of knowing all the right things – how they should respond – but they just can't follow through consistently. If we find ourselves stuck in this place, it's a sign that it may be time to go deeper.

Gwen Randall-Young is a psychotherapist in private practice and author of Growing Into Soul: The Next Step in Human Evolution. *For more articles, permission to reprint and information about her books and "Deep Powerful Change" personal growth/hypnosis CDs, visit www.gwen.ca*

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How Rome got it wrong

A failed empire offers lessons for modern times

by Geoff Olson

There will never be an end to the power of Rome.
– Court poet Claudian, shortly before the imperial city's sack by the Visigoths.

THE CITY of Rome is known today for its magnificent ruins: the Forum, the Colosseum, the Pantheon – and Marcello Mastroianni**.** It remains the most iconic example of civilization gone sideways and all the bad craziness of "Empires Gone Wild." But back in the early 5th century AD, the Eternal City presented a major theological puzzle for a reformed carouser by the name of Augustine.

The saint-to-be was trying to understand how Rome had fallen to pagan invaders, 80 years *after* Christianity became the state religion. How could a just God have allowed such a catastrophe? Augustine's solution, recorded in his *City of God,* was that human cities are only imperfect versions of the heavenly model – hence their fates don't rate. It was a Sicilian kind of dodge: "Hey, stuff happens. But the real deal is waitin' for us upstairs after we die. Doubt it and you'll end up downstairs, *capiche*?"

"History doesn't repeat itself; at best, it sometimes rhymes," wrote Mark Twain. And when we think of societies that went from bad to verse, Rome is the first place that comes to mind. How did the Romans get it wrong? And is there a lesson for today's world? As the US finds its economic and cultural hegemony challenged by the rise of India and China, and its hospitals, schools and infrastructure crumble while it prosecutes financially ruinous wars overseas, the comparison of the faltering US to end-game Rome is becoming unavoidable.

Of course, the comparisons of the Roman Empire to societies that followed it are often strained, and not only by empire's detractors. The US founding fathers consciously modelled Washington's neoclassical architecture on the Roman template. (The name "Capitol" relates to the Latin Capitolium, a temple of Jupiter at Rome on the Capitoline Hill.) Hitler's star architect, Albert Speer, did the same for The Third Reich. Benito Mussolini was of a similar mindset, hoping to raise his elfin stature through a resurgent homeland, with fascist architecture drawing on his ancestors' architectural glories.

By 180 AD, emperor Trajan ruled most of the known world, including Spain, Britain, Gaul and Northern Africa. At this time, wrote 18th century historian Edward Gibbon, "The Empire of Rome comprised the fairest part of the Earth, and the most civilized portion of mankind." The debate on Rome's influence continues today, from academia to pop culture. "What have the Romans ever given us?" snarls Reg, the leader of a Judean uprising in Monty Python's *Life of Brian.* "The aqueduct," one of Reg's commandoes meekly replies. "Sanitation," offers another, with the rest citing medicine, wine, roads and public order.

And what has the US given its provincials, people like us, clinging on the edge of empire? Petrodollars, information technology and Hollywood's cultural dominion, for a start. Membership in empire has its privileges, as well as its problems.

If, as some historians insist, the Roman Empire was like an organism, then its brain, the capital, needed increased sustenance just to service its swelling body. In his short but substantial book, *Are We Rome*?, former *Atlantic* editor Cullen Murphy traces the life-sustaining flow across the capital's permeable membrane: "pottery, jewelry, salt iron and cloth going one way, from inside to outside; and cattle, horses, hides, food, slaves and paid labour going the other way."

Murphy rhymes off the usual suspects in Rome's decline, including a few that academics have let off the hook, such as lead poisoning from pipes and/or impotence supposedly caused by hot water in the public baths. The remaining, more believable causes include barbarian invasions, a hollowed out military, economic stagnation, the bubonic plague, destruction of the soil and massive corruption. They all played their part, Murphy decides. "As in the *Murder On The Orient Express,* all the prime suspects shared in the deed."

The Roman Empire, which was the autocratic spawn of the Roman Republic, lasted 500 years. In contrast, if we date the beginnings of the US empire back to its first colonial acquisitions in the Spanish-American war, the American Empire has lasted less than a century, though its reach today far exceeds Rome's ancient grasp. The US now has 700 military bases in more than 130 countries, ensuring that access to open markets is backed up by force.

Catherine Austin Fitts, former assistant secretary of housing in the senior Bush administration, gives a concise description of the global US empire as dominated by two pillars: the defence department and the financial/banking sector. The domestic control of the financial sector ensures that those behind nearly all domestic Ponzi schemes go unprosecuted, while the global influence of the US military ensures the empire's funny money, the petrodollar, remains the global reserve currency – for now, at least.

From this perspective, Bush and Cheney were servants of empire and proxies of financial/defence interests. Due to the Bush administration's war on science – and just about anything connected with common sense – the current occupant of the Oval Office has inherited a seemingly unmanageable mess. While launching an unsustainable war on phony pretexts in Iraq, George W. Bush ensured that any prosperity was mostly limited to military contractors, Wall Street and the top 10 percent of the population – the latter mostly through his regressive tax cuts. With New Orleans drenched and everything else in flames, America's answer to Emperor Nero responded to his plunging popularity with another tax-cutting appeal to his conservative "base." The second round of tax-cuts was seen as a move so fiscally destructive it was resisted by his own party.

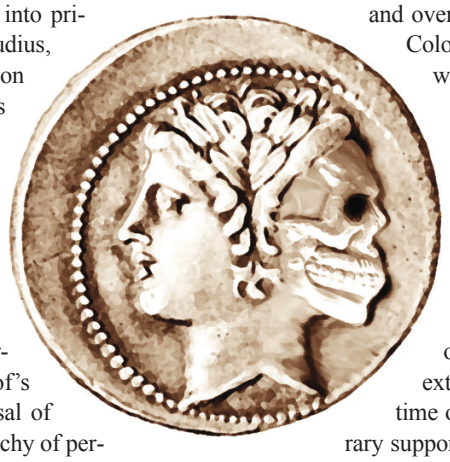
Today, the projected US national debt stands at a staggering $10 trillion dollars, an amount expected to more than double over the next 10 years to $23 trillion. By 2017, the debt is projected to be more than the entire economic output of the country, with most of the debt due to federal "entitlement" programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Compounding the economic bad news is a recession/depression aided and abetted by Wall Street's briefcase-carrying barbarians, who, thanks to the Clinton administration's easing of financial regulations, were able to turbocharge their Ponzi schemes. Gibbon's principle of decay has ripened nicely in the Land of the Free.

One notable source of US democratic fragmentation is the nation's income disparities, at a level not seen since the Gilded Age. Is there at least an echo here, if not a rhyme, with Ancient Rome? "The class stratification of Roman society was extreme," writes Murphy. "By comparison, Victorian England might seem a laboratory of equality. Rome's wealthiest class, the senatorial aristocracy, constituted, by one estimate, two thousandths of one percent of the population, then came the equestrian class, with perhaps a tenth of a percent. Collectively these people owned almost everything."

The US still has a way to go to match Rome. In 2005, the average CEO in the United States earned 262 times the pay of the average worker, according to Lawrence Mishel of the Economic Policy Institute. "In 2005, a CEO earned more in one workday (there are 260 in a year) than an average worker earned in 52 weeks." In contrast, the wealth gap between Rome's upper elite and everyone else was on the order of 5,000 to 10,000 to one.

Author Ronald Wright identifies another surprising source for Roman decline in his book, *A Short History of Progress*. The empire's foreign conquests made great wealth for its soldiers of fortune, who returned home looking for a little conspicuous consumption. The result was a land boom anywhere within the range of the capital. The peasants were driven out onto unsuitable land, with a resulting exhaustion of the soil.

"Family farms could not compete against big estates using slave labour; they went bankrupt or were forced to sell out, and their young men joined the legions," Wright notes. In a spiralling series of negative feedback loops, public land quickly passed into private hands and by time of Claudius, 200,000 Roman families were on the dole, living off the emperor's handouts of free wheat. This was part of the "bread and circuses" to keep the restless mob fat and happy.



Rome's unsustainable practices were towing it steadily toward the Dark Ages and into the long shadow of feudalism. Murphy quotes historian F. L. Ganshof's definition of feudalism: "a dispersal of political authority amongst a hierarchy of persons who exercise in their own interest powers normally attributed to the state." In other words, public wealth and public spaces fell increasingly into private hands. We have another word for that today: privatization.

In the Roman Empire's declining years, entire portions of government were outsourced to what we would now call private-public partnerships. Wealthy, connected Romans were able to start their own tax operations, gathering tribute for the empire and skimming more than a little for themselves. Then there was the ruinous cost of defending the capital. Wright notes that at the time of Constantine's 4th century rule, the "imperial standing army was more than half a million men, an enormous drain on a treasury…" Shades of the current US military and military related expenditures, which now consume fully half of the nation's annual domestic budget. Here is where some of the biggest "entitlement" programs are found.

In 2007, private military contractors working directly for the US defence department outnumbered US troops, according to a report in *The Seattle Times*. It's an old game. In Rome's twilight years, Rome outsourced much of its defence to barbarian mercenaries. Alaric the Visigoth, who led the sack of Rome, actually did a stint as a general in Rome's army so the fall of the imperial city did not involve an especially violent transfer of authority. According to Murphy, after waltzing through the gates, Alaric demanded that any wealth that could be lifted up and removed was his. When a representative of the ruling class asked what they could keep, he responded, "your lives."

But what of that rubbery word, "decadence?" Did moral squalor not also play a role in Rome's decline? You can't read about the blood-spattered diversions of the Gladiatorial Games without thinking that the Roman mobs were past their best-before date, to say nothing of the ruling class cheering from the best seats.

It was reality without the television. The *retiarii* with their nets and tridents duelled with the *hoplomachi*, the enormous men covered with armour and carrying the big curved shields of the legionaries. Slaves fought lions, women fought dwarves and elephants fought charioteers. It has been estimated that about 500,000 people and over a million wild animals died in the Colosseum games.We can only imagine what the emperors could have done with broadband technology, viral marketing and syndication rights.

But is there a more general principle behind Rome's fall? Edward Gibbon was first to see the empire's decline as multi-causal: "prosperity ripened the principle of decay; the causes of destruction multiplied with the extent of conquest; and, as soon as time or accident had removed the temporary supports, the stupendous fabric yielded to the pressure of its own weight."

In his book, *The Collapse of Complex Societies,* anthropologist Joseph Tainter cites Parkinson's Law, which holds that the cost of running and defending an empire eventually becomes prey to diminishing returns. The immense, interconnected network of alliances, market relations and corrupt politicking ultimately becomes burdensome and unsupportable. In a phase shift – like ice turning to water – the system reverts to more efficient, local forms of organization.

"Thucydides observed that empires start to decline when they cease to expand," writes Murphy in *Are We Rome?* "You can't read an account of Rome in the third, fourth or fifth century, when expansion is over and emperors are desperately trying to hold things together, without marvelling at the blizzard of variables at play. Every Roman action to address one urgent problem – military, diplomatic, economic, political – creates unintended new problems. The blood thinner causes hemorrhage, the coagulant causes stroke."

Throughout his book, Murphy's narrative voice yo-yoes from mild alarm to stoic resignation. The parallels between modern-day US and the Roman Empire are many and deep, he believes. Information technology and sheer industrial might, things that Romans were without, have only magnified the height from which a modern superpower can fall.

Rome's functional qualities eventually became dysfunctional. Corruption and flattering the ear of authority ensured that the reality principle was kept at bay. Like an animal crazed from multiple infections, Rome's bureaucratic nervous system could no longer reliably report and respond to its internal and external threats.

The Roman historian Titus Livius explained that a society's strength is ultimately measured by the well-being of its people – materially, socially and spiritually… And were he alive today, he wouldn't be referring to media-massaged unreality, denatured food, urbanized isolation, pharmaceutical acclimatization or the sacrifice of freedoms.

"The provision of security became an increasingly heavy charge on society, a charge unevenly distributed, which could enrich the wealthy and ruin the poor," notes historian Edward Luttwak in Murphy's book. "The machinery of empire now became increasingly self-serving, with its tax collectors, administrators, and soldiers of much greater use to one another than to society at large."

A line comes to mind from HBO's dramatic series, *The Wire*. "We used to make shit in this country, build shit," says a fictional black character living in Baltimore. "Now, we just put our hands in the next guy's pocket." David Simon, *The Wire's* writer and creator, put it in more polite terms in an interview on *Bill Moyers Journal*, noting how national institutions have degenerated into mechanisms for personal enrichment and advancement. "This stuff is systemic. This is how an empire is eaten from within."

The Roman historian Titus Livius, better know to us as Livy, explained that a society's strength is ultimately measured by the well-being of its people – materially, socially and spiritually. He didn't mean "bread and circuses." And were he alive today, he wouldn't be referring to media-massaged unreality, denatured food, urbanized isolation, pharmaceutical acclimatization or the sacrifice of freedoms for so-called security. "An empire remains powerful so long as its subjects rejoice in it," Livy insisted.

In Denys Arcand's Canadian film, *The Decline of the American Empire,* one of the characters muses on how life was actually quite pleasant, for some time, for the provincials on the outskirts of a vanished empire. If empires are always programmed to fail and we provincials are waiting for history's inevitable rhyme, we can only hope Arcand's film script sentiment is prophetic.

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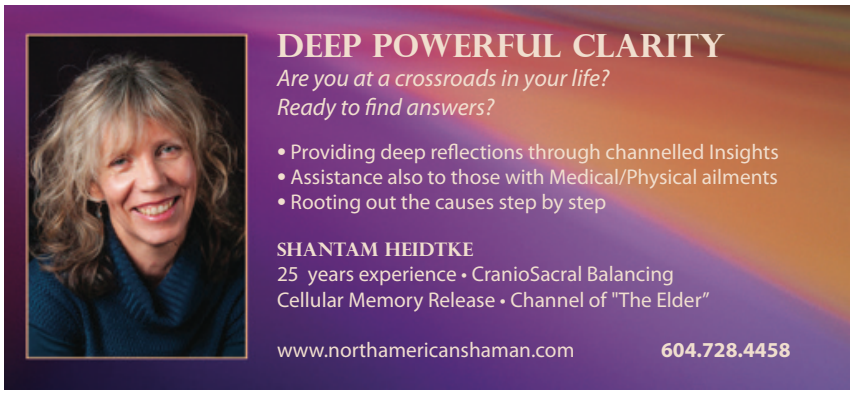
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Your turn to be the change

by Maureen Jack-LaCroix

"YOU MUST be the change you want to see in the world." This profoundly grounded and compelling call to action by Mahatma Gandhi is the founding principle of the social change program developed by Be the Change Earth Alliance, and it reveals more to me every time I consider it.

Along with the mandate of taking personal responsibility to clarify and live what we value, with this statement Gandhi challenges our integrity to act in alignment with those values.

The challenges of our time are calling for change on a scale we do not yet understand. Even when we start to recognize, through scientific and spiritual insight, the truth of our interconnectedness, the complexity of the natural and social systems in which we operate far exceeds our ability to comprehend.

Whether or not you have moved through decades of personal growth and spiritual exploration, we are now collectively entering a new moment in time that calls us to transform our operating perspective from "I" into "we." To quote Ken Wilbur, this is a "transcend and include" process. We must not lose the personal responsibility and unique offerings of the "I," but we must also embrace the collective responsibility and wisdom of the "we."

We are being asked to trust our collective potential as never before – to let go of our competitive, individualistic tendencies – both personally and organizationally – and to trust more deeply in the unfamiliar, and sometimes chaotic, collaborative approach. There are so many aspects required in this change that one person alone cannot see the emergent social order.

I like Ken Wilbur's maxim that no theory or model is either all right or all wrong. It opens me up to listen for understanding, instead of agreement. This is a primary protocol for Be the Change circles. When listening for the unique perspective each of us has, we hear the broader collective wisdom that the circle brings.

What a rich and juicy range of issues and changes to consider in the global shift that is underway at this time. That's the exciting aspect of "The Great Turning" "un-conference'" we have planned for May 23. It is an opportunity to dialogue with a dynamic spectrum of change agents, each speaking to an issue about which they are passionate and knowledgeable. Be they eco-warriors or eco-innovators, social justice missionaries or spiritual activists, they all hold an important piece of the puzzle. Our process is to honour everyone and to challenge everyone, to broaden and deepen our understanding so that we can consider the personal and collective actions we can take to be the change we want to see in the world.

Dr. Joanna Macy stated, "The Great Turning is our essential adventure, as we shift from an industrial world view to one that engenders a life-sustaining civilization." This systems theorist and honoured teacher is deeply grounded in Buddhist wisdom and she calls us to be both hospice and midwife in these times of great change.

To hospice the old structures and systems that do not serve life on Earth as they fall away. At the same time to mindfully, and with great intention, midwife the emergence of new life sustaining systems and structures that will support the health and well-being of our planet and all members of the Earth community.

We know that we cannot do this work alone. It is essential to connect with others, to share insights and stories of change. We must talk together, feast together and nourish ourselves in a community dedicated to environmental sustainability, personal meaning and social justice.

The Great Turning will help coalesce the collective wisdom that informs our community and generate cross-sector collaborations and collective actions to accelerate the shift that is presently underway. While the pathways to a restored Earth may already be here, no single person or community will lead the way forward. Many voices are needed. Yours is one of them!

Maureen Jack-LaCroix is executive director of Be the Change Earth Alliance and producer of the first annual un-conference, The Great Turning, Saturday, May 23, Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph St, Vancouver. Tickets available at www.bethechangecircles.org or call 604-269-9874.

TAKE BACK YOUR POWER

STOLEN RIVERS

ON MAY 12, 2009 STOP GORDON CAMPBELL

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Hundreds of BC's rivers are being given away for private profit at your expense.

Gordon Campbell's energy plan cuts you out of your province's energy future.

Private power tells us they're investing in BC.
We pay for all of this.
We own none of it.
They make billions.

Gordon Campbell forced the Ashlu River private power development through even though the entire regional district said no.
$31 billion of public money was given away to private power producers in a form of long-term purchase agreements.

It's a SCAM

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Cooper Creek (Kootenays)
Koch Creek (Kootenays)
Crab River (Northern BC)
Europa River (Northern BC)
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Nustatsum River (Central Coast)
Klinaklini River (Central Coast)
Bulson River Vancouver Island
Bute Inlet (Sunshine Coast) - biggest proposed private hydro power project in Canadian history, estimated to cost public at least $5 billion.

This is just the beginning if we don't stop it now.

These rivers and hundreds more can be saved by YOU!

All around our Province people are getting the message and standing up for BC.

These are your rivers. Your children's rivers.
This is your energy security. Your economic future.
This is your Province.

May 12 is your day to end it.

www.SaveOurRivers.ca Registered under the BC Election Act (866) 392-7458

Rafe Mair

Our Watershed Election

STOLEN RIVERS

In this Watershed Election on May 12, 2009, we choose between saving our fish and wildlife, our majestic forests that help fight climate change and give us our clean air, or destroying them with private river power projects WE DON'T NEED! We must fight, and must fight to drive the predators out of this Province!

This is British Columbia, where I've spent my whole life. I don't own this land. I use it in trust, for indigenous peoples' title and rights, for the salmon and the bears, for the eagles and the orca, for my community and for all who come after me.

At Save Our Rivers Society we're calling May 12th, 2009, Our Watershed Election, because that's when British Columbians will choose their destiny. This is the most important provincial election we've ever faced, where we decide whether we preserve our sacred rivers and historic public power system, or mandate Gordon Campbell to continue giving them away to some of the world's biggest corporations.

For the past six years our autocratic Premier has been quietly surrendering our watersheds to private companies to make expensive, environmentally destructive power, whose enormous costs will be passed on to us through huge rate increases while ultimately bankrupting BC Hydro. Over six hundred rivers and streams already have applications or licenses on them. Though invaluable, these licenses cost the companies virtually nothing.

In this Watershed Election, we choose between saving our fish and wildlife, our majestic forests that help fight climate change and give us our clean air, or destroying them with private river power projects we don't need.

Do we follow the far right wing Fraser Institute, who Premier Campbell worships, that says everything must be privatized, including our public assets and the most beautiful landscapes on earth? Or, do we preserve our heritage and fight to keep our rivers, their ecologies, our public power, and our sovereignty?

Thanks to many sacrifices over the past fifty years, we enjoy a public power system and energy security that are the envy of the world, providing us with the lowest power bills and cleanest electricity in North America, while yielding up to a billion dollars a year in public profits, keeping our taxes low while paying for health care and education. All of that will be lost if we give Campbell and his private energy agenda another four years.

This is Our Watershed Election, where we must take back our environment and our power, together, united across our multi-cultural communities. The damage Campbell's private power policy would do to our economy is incalculable, the damage to our environment would be irreparable.

Either we reclaim our Province on May 12th, 2009, or we abandon our very soul, our heritage, our British Columbia. Join us in the battle to save our rivers and our public power.

To learn more, go to SaveOurRivers.ca.

For Save Our Rivers Society, I'm Rafe Mair.

Rafe Mair, Canada's best known political commentator, former lawyer and cabinet minister speaks for Save Our Rivers Society in a video documentary "BC's Watershed Election". For this and more videos on the theft of BC's rivers and public power resources visit www.ourrivers.ca and click on one of the side banners to see the film.

The following text was excerpted from Rafe Mair's speech at Pitt Meadows High on March 25, 2008 during the fight to save the Pitt River.

This is not a shame, this is a bloody crime that is being proposed. I want to tell you that we're in for a long, long hard fight. Not just here [the Pitt River] but around the Province. As many of you who have heard me in the past know, I'm a fan of Winston Churchill, who knew something about battles. And he said, Never Give In – never, , never – in nothing great or small, large or petty. Never give in. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparent overwhelmingly might of the enemy. We must fight, and must fight to drive the predators out of this Province.

Now, don't let them complicate this issue. It's a very simple one. These rivers and streams, the Pitt and the 500 or 700 other than that, they belong to us. Not Gordon Campbell. They do not belong to Gordon Campbell and his favorite beneficiaries. Our rivers and streams belong to all of us, on behalf of all of us and behalf of our children and grandchildren. They cannot be allowed to be sold to a morally bankrupt group of companies and a morally bankrupt government.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is a political issue. Make no doubt about that. But it is not a party political issue. This is how it has got to be fought. In the election that is coming up, mercifully in May of 2009, we have to all say around this Province, we will support no candidate for office that doesn't declare his or her solemn promise to protect our rivers and streams and the fish and wildlife they sustain. And, we must say to each and every one of them, we will support no candidate who won't pledge unequivocally for public power.

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Each of these dots represents a granted or pending application license for water energy resource - our public property - which is being quietly diverted to private ownership in the biggest theft of the century. Since 2001, over 60 water licences have been granted for private hydropower projects in British Columbia and over 600 more applications pending - impacting every watershed in the Province. British Columbia, the richest energy resource in the world, is being stolen from its own people and put in the hands of global energy moguls. This is Your Wealth! Reclaim Your POWER!

These are our rivers under threat by private water power applications

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Middle Memekay Ri Z116948 Appl. Nanaimo
Middle Memekay Ri Z116947 Appl. Nanaimo
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Horsey Creek Z117076 Appl. Prince George
Packsaddle Creek Z117082 Appl. Prince George
Swift Creek Z117080 Appl. Prince George
Swift Creek Z117081 Appl. Prince George
ZZ Creek (76701) Z117074 Appl. Prince George
Clowhom River (Lo Z116537 Appl. Vancouver
Clowhom River (Pha Z116535 Appl. Vancouver
Clowhom River (Up Z116536 Appl. Vancouver
Dempster Creek Z116538 Appl. Vancouver
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Ruby Creek Z117482 Appl. New Westminster
Algard Creek Z122772 Appl. Vancouver
Bear River Z118603 Appl. Vancouver
Brew Creek Z118602 Appl. Vancouver
Elliot Creek Z118609 Appl. Vancouver
Elliot Neighbour Cre Z122745 Appl. Vancouver
Freda Creek Z120788 Appl. Vancouver
Icewall Creek Z118600 Appl. Vancouver
Mill Creek Z120109 Appl. Vancouver
Orford River Z122746 Appl. Vancouver
Rainy River Z119785 Appl. Vancouver
Raleigh Creek Z118605 Appl. Vancouver
Scott Creek Z120109 Appl. Vancouver
Southgate River Z118607 Appl. Vancouver
Southgate River Z118608 Appl. Vancouver
Whitemantle Creek Z118601 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (77842) Z118606 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (78596) Appl. Vancouver
ZZ River (80694) Z122756 Appl. Vancouver
ALPINE POWER & TRANSMISSION INC
Eagle Creek (?) Z117222 Appl. New Westminster
Gerty Creek Z117155 Appl. New Westminster
Laura Creek Z117156 Appl. New Westminster
Lost Creek Z117092 Appl. New Westminster
Middle Creek Z117155 Appl. New Westminster
Roaring Creek Z117156 Appl. New Westminster
Salsbury Creek Z117092 Appl. New Westminster
Skwellepil Creek Z117155 Appl. New Westminster
Skwellepil Creek Z117155 Appl. New Westminster
Statlu Lake Z117222 Appl. New Westminster
Terepocki Creek Z117092 Appl. New Westminster
Unnamed Z117222 Appl. New Westminster
Wilson Lake Z117155 Appl. New Westminster
Winslow Creek Z117227 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (76693) Z117092 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (76694) Z117092 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (76824) Z117227 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (80230) Z117156 Appl. New Westminster
CREEK POWER INC
Cadwallader Creek Z115947 Appl. Ashcroft
Gun Creek Z116900 Appl. Ashcroft
Noel Creek Z115947 Appl. Ashcroft
Tyaughton Creek Z116904 Appl. Ashcroft
ZZ Creek (75803) J Z115946 Appl. Ashcroft
ZZ Creek (75804) J Z115946 Appl. Ashcroft
Billy Goat Creek Z116060 Appl. New Westminster
Kakila Creek Z116056 Appl. New Westminster
Lizzie Creek Z116053 Appl. New Westminster
North Creek Z116903 Appl. New Westminster
North Sloquet Creek Z116905 Appl. New Westminster
Pebble Creek Z116057 Appl. New Westminster
Sloquet Creek Z116906 Appl. New Westminster
South Sloquet Creek Z116907 Appl. New Westminster
Tuwasus Creek Z116901 Appl. New Westminster
Twin One Creek Z116059 Appl. New Westminster
Twin Two Creek Z117402 Appl. New Westminster
PLUTONIC POWER CORPORATION
Fissure Creek Z122212 Appl. Nanaimo
Smythe Creek Z122211 Appl. Nanaimo
Stanton Creek Z122213 Appl. Nanaimo
Coola Creek Z122905 Appl. Vancouver
Dalgleish Creek Z122258 Appl. Vancouver
Gargoyle Creek Z122924 Appl. Vancouver
Heakamie River Z122925 Appl. Vancouver
Henriette Lake Z121448 Appl. Vancouver
Jewakwa River Z122881 Appl. Vancouver
Jimmie Creek Z122260 Appl. Vancouver
Scar Creek Z122882 Appl. Vancouver
Toba River Z122261 Appl. Vancouver
Woodfibre Creek Z121448 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80355) Z122261 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80362) Z122260 Appl. Vancouver
CANADIAN HYDRO DEVELOPERS INC
Bone Creek C11913 License Kamloops
Clemina Creek C11913 License Kamloops
Crazy Creek Z121007 Appl. Kamloops
Dominion Creek Z120681 Appl. Kamloops
Finn Creek Z119136 Appl. Kamloops
Gum Creek Z119137 Appl. Kamloops
Hellroar Creek Z119138 Appl. Kamloops
Miledge Creek Z120680 Appl. Kamloops
Moonbeam Creek Z120679 Appl. Kamloops
Victor Creek (Englis Z117286 Appl. Kamloops
White River Z120678 Appl. Kamloops
Ledge Creek Z117493 Appl. Nelson
Akolkolex River C10061 License Revelstoke
Mamquam River C10283 License Vancouver
HAWKEYE ENERGY CORPORATION
Barkshack Creek Z122520 Appl. Vancouver
High Creek Z122944 Appl. Vancouver
Hunaechin Creek Z122590 Appl. Vancouver
Lausmann Creek Z122577 Appl. Vancouver
Little Toba River Z122899 Appl. Vancouver
Pilldolla Creek Z122565 Appl. Vancouver
Seshal Creek Z122619 Appl. Vancouver
Slane Creek Z122519 Appl. Vancouver
Smanit Creek Z122580 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80474) Z122588 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80491) Z122589 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80504) Z122591 Appl. Vancouver
PRINCETON ENERGY INC.
Boulder Creek Z122939 Appl. Ashcroft
Downton Creek Z122936 Appl. Ashcroft
Texas Creek Z122748 Appl. Ashcroft
Berkey Creek Z117438 Appl. New Westminster
Eureka Creek Z116218 Appl. New Westminster
Hunter Creek Z117981 Appl. New Westminster
Peers Creek Z117621 Appl. New Westminster
Wray Creek Z117439 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (76045) Z116217 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (77540) Z117410 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (77542) Z117981 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (77549) Z117622 Appl. New Westminster
HOLMES HYDRO INC
Bench Lake Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Blueberry Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Brian Creak Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Jack Pine Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
JR Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Judy Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Kelly Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Kieth Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Lauren Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Moose Wallow Cree Z122334 Appl. Prince George
Tommy's Creek Z122334 Appl. Prince George
ALICE ARM HYDRO ELECTRIC CORP
Clary Creek Z116941 Appl. Prince Rupert
Falls Creek Z117481 Appl. Prince Rupert
Gwunya Creek Z117301 Appl. Prince Rupert
Illiance River Z116941 Appl. Prince Rupert
Kelskiist Creek Z117309 Appl. Prince Rupert
Klayduc Creek Z117303 Appl. Prince Rupert
La Rose Creek Z117303 Appl. Prince Rupert
Stark Creek Z117305 Appl. Prince Rupert
West Kitsault River C11748 License Prince Rupert
ZZ Creek (76955) Z117309 Appl. Prince Rupert
SYNEX ENERGY RESOURCES LTD
Barr Creek Z116387 Appl. Alberni
Cypress Creek C11638 License Alberni
Leiner River Z116386 Appl. Alberni
McKelvie Creek C11638 License Alberni
Mears Creek C11638 License Alberni
Perry River Z122861 Appl. Alberni
Perry River Z122861 Appl. Alberni
Ucona River Z116102 Appl. Alberni
Victoria Lake Z121438 Appl. Alberni
Zeballos River Z116383 Appl. Alberni
Tlatlos Creek Z122980 Appl. Nanaimo
NORTHWEST CASCADE POWER LTD
Boise Creek Z117404 Appl. New Westminster
Bucklin Creek Z116908 Appl. New Westminster
Corbold Creek Z116909 Appl. New Westminster
Homer Creek Z117405 Appl. New Westminster
Lillooet River Z116902 Appl. New Westminster
Pinecone Creek Z116910 Appl. New Westminster
Shale Creek Z116911 Appl. New Westminster
Steve Creek Z117406 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (76543) Z116912 Appl. New Westminster
KMC ENERGY CORP
Tamihi Creek Z103888 Appl. New Westminster
High Falls Creek Z104545 Appl. Vancouver
High Falls Creek Z104545 Appl. Vancouver
Rubble Creek Z102872 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (65616) Z104545 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (65616) Z104545 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (65616) Z104545 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (65621) Z104545 Appl. Vancouver
784483 BC LTD
Mcparlon Creek Z122755 Appl. Ashcroft
Mcparlon Creek Z122755 Appl. Ashcroft
Mcparlon Creek Z122755 Appl. Ashcroft
Ashlu Creek Z122757 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80716) Z122757 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80717) Z122757 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80718) Z122757 Appl. Vancouver
AXIOM POWER INC
Tahsish River Z117701 Appl. Alberni
ZZ River (77339) Z117701 Appl. Alberni
Clint Lake Z120672 Appl. Nanaimo
Cougar Lake Z120672 Appl. Nanaimo
Marmot Lake Z120672 Appl. Nanaimo
Pinder Creek Z118366 Appl. Nanaimo
Roosevelt Lake Z120672 Appl. Nanaimo
SECOND REALITY EFFECTS INC. (A DIVISION
Bremner Creek Z121348 Appl. New Westminster
Trio Creek Z121347 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (79477) Z121347 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (79480) Z121348 Appl. New Westminster
Fries Creek Z120475 Appl. Vancouver
Hixon Creek Z120905 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (78972) Z120475 Appl. Vancouver
3986314 CANADA INC
Behrman Z116167 Appl. Kamloops
Birnam Creek Z120251 Appl. Kamloops
East Creek Z116369 Appl. Kamloops
Glacier Creek Z120251 Appl. Kamloops
Howser Creek Z116167 Appl. Kamloops
Suck Z116167 Appl. Kamloops
MOREHEAD VALLEY HYDRO INC
Siwash Creek C10272 License Ashcroft
Siwash Creek C10272 License Ashcroft
Siwash Creek C10272 License Ashcroft
Morehead Creek C10710 License Cariboo
Morehead Creek Z116576 Appl. Cariboo
Morehead Lake C10176 License Cariboo
0784483 BC LTD
Fish Creek Z122738 Appl. New Westminster
Meager Creek Z122738 Appl. New Westminster
Salal Creek Z122688 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (80662) Z122738 Appl. New Westminster
ZZ Creek (80664) Z122738 Appl. New Westminster
574768 BC LTD
Chimdemash Creek Z119099 Appl. Hazelton
Kleanza Creek Z119103 Appl. Hazelton
ZZ Creek (76250) Z116490 Appl. New Westminster
McKay Creek Z119104 Appl. Prince Rupert
Treat Creek Z117132 Appl. Vancouver
FORTISBC INC
Kootenay River (Lo F012705 License Nelson
Kootenay River (Lo F011361 License Nelson
Kootenay River (Lo F012699 License Nelson
Kootenay River (Lo F012701 License Nelson
Kootenay River (Lo F063099 License Nelson
Similkameen River Z103235 Appl. Prince Rupert
HYDRALTO RENEWABLE ENERGY CORP.
Chickwat Creek Z122774 Appl. Vancouver
Taquat Creek Z122848 Appl. Vancouver
Tatlow Creek Z122665 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80724) Z122774 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80725) Z122774 Appl. Vancouver
INNERGEX INC
Saunders Creek Z116224 Appl. Alberni
Cruickshank River Z116229 Appl. Nanaimo
Kaipit Creek Z116221 Appl. Nanaimo
Kokish River Z116228 Appl. Nanaimo
Tsable River C11622 License Nanaimo
PAMAWED RESOURCES LTD
Cedarflat Creek Z113873 Appl. New Westminster
Dewdney Creek Z113873 Appl. New Westminster
Crawford Creek Z116321 Appl. Vancouver
Culliton Creek Z115639 Appl. Vancouver
Skookum Creek Z116191 Appl. Vancouver
0775898 B.C. LTD.
Kiwa Creek Z122330 Appl. Prince George
McLennan River Z122331 Appl. Prince George
Tete Creek Z122325 Appl. Prince George
Perketts Creek Z117131 Appl. Vancouver
CLEAN POWER OPERATING TRUST TITLE CORP
Hluey Creek C10524 License Atlin
Tsenaglode Creek C10524 License Atlin
Jackson Creek C10398 License Vancouver
Sechelt Creek C10398 License Vancouver
KITSAULT HYDRO ELECTRIC CORP
Homestake Creek C11650 License Prince Rupert
Kitsault River C11650 License Prince Rupert
Kitsault River Z122199 Appl. Prince Rupert
Trout Creek Z117307 Appl. Prince Rupert
RENEWABLE POWER CORP.
Ramona Creek Z122790 Appl. Vancouver
Tzoonie River Z122857 Appl. Vancouver
Tzoonie River Z122857 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (78975) (Z120523 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80733) Z122790 Appl. Vancouver
ADVANCED ENERGY SYSTEMS LTD
Twentyone Mile Cre Z116497 Appl. New Westminster
Cranberry Creek Z118772 Appl. Revelstoke
South Cranberry Cr C11710 License Revelstoke
ANYOX HYDRO ELECTRIC CORP
Anyox Creek C10126 License Prince Rupert

BOILED WATERS

Lyall Creek Z117304 Appl. Prince Rupert
ZZ Creek (76944) Z117300 Appl. Prince Rupert
COAST MOUNTAIN POWER CORP.
McLymont Creek Z121074 Appl. Atlin
More Creek Z120374 Appl. Atlin
Volcano Creek Z122624 Appl. Prince Rupert
COASTAL RIVERS POWER LTD PARTNERSHIP
Moresby Creek C06752 License Prince Rupert
Moresby Lake C06752 License Prince Rupert
Mamquam River C10285 License Vancouver
EPCOR POWER HOLDINGS CORPORATION
Brown Lake C10960 License Prince Rupert
Brown Lake C10123 License Prince Rupert
Brown Lake C11945 License Prince Rupert
IG POWER INC
Cantelon Creek Z116446 Appl. New Westminster
Maselpanik Creek Z107739 Appl. New Westminster
Yola Creek Z116446 Appl. New Westminster
INTERPAC POWER CORP.
Chipmunk Creek Z120971 Appl. New Westminster
Tamihi Creek Z120969 Appl. New Westminster
Kinskuch River Z120796 Appl. Prince Rupert
MC HYDRO HOLDING CORP
McNair Creek C11981 License Vancouver
Wutke Creek C11981 License Vancouver
Yanko Creek C11981 License Vancouver
POWELL RIVER ENERGY INC
Lois River C11335 License Vancouver
Powell River C11334 License Vancouver
Theodosia River C11335 License Vancouver
RAGING RIVER POWER & MINING INC
Craft Creek Z119130 Appl. Alberni
Raging River Z120707 Appl. Alberni
Raging River F021419 License Alberni
REGIONAL POWER INC
Misery Creek Z103985 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (16927) Z104330 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (16927) Z104332 Appl. Vancouver
ROBRO SIX HOLDINGS LTD
Coquitlam Lake Z117110 Appl. New Westminster
Kirkup Creek Z117109 Appl. Revelstoke
Mulvehill Creek Z117136 Appl. Revelstoke
SN POWER LTD
Conroy Creek Z116455 Appl. Vancouver
Culliton Creek Z116455 Appl. Vancouver
Stawamus River Z116358 Appl. Vancouver
SUMMIT POWER CORP
Doran Lake C10955 License Alberni
Porter Creek C10955 License Alberni
Ucona River Z100778 Appl. Alberni
TIPELLA CREEK LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
Lamont Creek C11641 License New Westminster
Stave River C11641 License New Westminster
Tipella Creek C11885 License New Westminster
WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS INC
Henriette Lake F017351 License Vancouver
Sylvia Lake F004896 License Vancouver
Woodfibre Creek F007218 License Vancouver
0728078 B. C. LTD.
Crab River Z122537 Appl. Prince Rupert
Europa Creek Z121233 Appl. Prince Rupert
0755748 BC LTD
Machmell River Z122837 Appl. Cariboo
Stafford River Z123007 Appl. Nanaimo
445026 BC LTD
Ikesumkah Lake Z121239 Appl. Cariboo
Nascall Lake Z121240 Appl. Cariboo
6167047 CANADA LIMITED
Bonanza River Z102166 Appl. Nanaimo
Kokish River Z102166 Appl. Nanaimo
6732101 CANADA LTD
Dahlaks Creek Z122722 Appl. Prince Rupert
Dahlaks Creek Z122722 Appl. Prince Rupert
Dahlaks Creek Z122722 Appl. Prince Rupert
Dahlaks Creek Z122722 Appl. Prince Rupert
Wathlsto Creek Z122723 Appl. Prince Rupert
Wathlsto Creek Z122723 Appl. Prince Rupert
Wathlsto Creek Z122723 Appl. Prince Rupert
Wathlsto Creek Z122723 Appl. Prince Rupert
BOSTON BAR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
Scuzzy Creek C10214 License New Westminster
Six Mile Creek C10214 License New Westminster
CHEAKAMUS GORGE HYDRO LTD
Cheakamus River Z120901 Appl. Vancouver
Cheakamus River Z120101 Appl. Vancouver
CHILLIWACK POWER CORPORATION
Airplane Creek Z107750 Appl. New Westminster
Chipmunk Creek Z107540 Appl. New Westminster
CREEKSIDE RESOURCES INC.
Birkenhead River Z115958 Appl. New Westminster
Wedge Creek Z116454 Appl. New Westminster
INTERPAC RESOURCES LTD
Slesse Creek Z120970 Appl. New Westminster
Spuzzum Creek Z116849 Appl. New Westminster
KITSAULT RESORT LTD
Clary Creek Z121408 Appl. Prince Rupert
Lime Creek Z121409 Appl. Prince Rupert
LINK POWER MANAGEMENT
Centre Creek Z109652 Appl. New Westminster
Nesakwatch Creek Z119380 Appl. New Westminster
LORENZ NORMAN
Duncan Creek C11658 License Prince George
Hauer Creek C11658 License Prince George
MARION CREEK HYDRO INC
Marion 3 Creek C11570 License Alberni
Marionette Creek C11570 License Alberni
MILLER CREEK POWER LTD
Miller Creek C11852 License New Westminster
South Miller Creek C11852 License New Westminster
MKW'ALTS ENERGY LP
Cloud Creek C11594 License New Westminster
Ure Creek C11594 License New Westminster
MONASHEE POWER LTD
Pat Creek Z115583 Appl. Revelstoke
Soards Creek Z115381 Appl. Revelstoke
NEUCEL SPECIALTY CELLULOSE LTD
Victoria Lake C04357 License Alberni
Victoria Lake C04357 License Alberni
NVI MINING LTD.
Tennent Creek C02910 License Nanaimo
Thelwood Creek C06412 License Nanaimo
RUTHERFORD CREEK POWER LTD
Ipsoot Creek C11738 License New Westminster
Rutherford Creek C11738 License New Westminster
SELKIRK POWER COMPANY
French Creek Z122709 Appl. Revelstoke
Norman Wood Cree Z122408 Appl. Revelstoke
SUMMIT POWER MANAGEMENT INC
Lake of the Mountai Z116108 Appl. Nanaimo
Songhees Creek Z116108 Appl. Nanaimo
TOBA MONTROSE HYDRO INC
East Toba River C11930 Appl. Vancouver
Montrose Creek C11930 Appl. Vancouver
TRANSCANADA ENERGY LTD
Herrick Creek Z119854 Appl. Prince George
McGregor River Z119442 Appl. Prince George
VALHALLA POWER CORPORATION
Powder Creek Z119998 Appl. Kamloops
Goldstream River Z121488 Appl. Revelstoke
WESTERN PULP LIMITED
Mill Creek F007219 License Vancouver
Mill Creek F007219 License Vancouver
ZEBALLOS LAKE HYDRO LTD
Zeballos Lake C10363 License Alberni
Zeballos Lake C12188 License Alberni
0445026 BC LTD
Nascall Lake Z108952 Appl. Cariboo
0717016 BC LTD
Klinaklini River Z120635 Appl. Nanaimo
28165 YUKON INC
Wedgemount Creek Z120911 Appl. New Westminster
579220 BC LTD
Furry Creek Z117638 Appl. Vancouver
666921 BC LTD
Lost Valley Creek Z119961 Appl. Ashcroft
6732062 CANADA LTD
South Creek Z118249 Appl. New Westminster
6732089 CANADA LTD
Meager Creek Z122713 Appl. New Westminster
684996 BC LTD
Kokish River Z115440 Appl. Nanaimo
ALCAN INC
Nechako River F102324 License Hazelton
ANKENMAN JEFF
Seaton Creek C10037 License Nelson
ANKENMAN JEFFREY A
Payne Creek Z115937 Appl. Nelson
BARKLEY PROJECT GROUP LIMITED
Canoe Creek Z122675 Appl. Alberni
BUGABOO POWER LTD
Drimmie Creek Z117268 Appl. Revelstoke
CALLAGHAN CREEK HYDRO LTD PARTNERSHIP
Callaghan Creek Z116088 Appl. Vancouver
CASCADE PACIFIC POWER CORPORATION
Goat River F016854 License Nelson
CASTLE MOUNTAIN HYDRO LTD
Zz (80698) Z122788 Appl. Prince George
CAVERS DONALD R
Chase Creek Z103881 Appl. Kamloops
COAST MOUNTAIN HYDRO CORP
Iskut River C10947 License Atlin
COATS CLYDE H
Hoggan Creek C06392 License Nanaimo
Hoggan Creek C06392 License Nanaimo
Hoggan Creek C06392 License Nanaimo
Hoggan Creek C06392 License Nanaimo
COGENIX POWER CORPORATION
Log Creek Z103648 Appl. New Westminster
COLBY PROJECTS LTD.
Cacoohtin Creek C11594 License Cariboo
COPELAND RESOURCES LTD
Gravell Creek Z119322 Appl. New Westminster
DOUGLAS CREEK PROJECT LTD PARTNERSHIP
Douglas Creek C12234 License New Westminster
EAST TWIN CREEK HYDRO LTD
Hystad Creek C11579 License Prince George
ECKERT THERESA WANDA
Paleface Creek Z113418 Appl. New Westminster
ENTERPRISE POWER CORPORATION
Enterprise Creek Z117313 Appl. Nelson
ESI POWER-WALDEN CORPORATION
Cayoosh Creek C07283 License Ashcroft
EXECUTIVE HOUSE POWER CORPORATION
Soo River C10358 License New Westminster
FITZSIMMONS CREEK HYDRO LTD PARTNERSHIP
Fitzsimmons Creek Z116501 Appl. New Westminster
FLETT FORESTRY LTD
Whitewater Creek C11782 License Kamloops
FOCUS ENERGY INC.
Sowerby Creek Z113925 Appl. New Westminster
FORTISBC INC
Kootenay River (Lo F011361 License Nelson
Kootenay River (Lo F063099 License Nelson
Kootenay River (Lo F012699 License Nelson
Kootenay River (Lo F012701 License Nelson
Kootenay River (Lo F012705 License Nelson
Similkameen River Z103235 Appl. Prince Rupert
FOSTHALL CREEK POWER LTD
Fosthall Creek Z116274 Appl. Nelson
FURRY CREEK POWER LTD
Furry Creek C11963 License Vancouver
GENEREX HYDRO INC
Small Creek C10154 License Prince George
GITGA'AT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Gabion River Z122167 Appl. Prince Rupert
HANSON DARYL JAMES ET AL
Maroon Creek Z120217 Appl. Prince Rupert
HIGHWATER POWER CORPORATION
Kookipi Creek Z103725 Appl. New Westminster
HOODICOFF RON
Norns Creek C06830 License Nelson
HUPACASATH FIRST NATION
Corrigan Creek Z121734 Appl. Alberni
HURLEY RIVER HYDRO LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
Hurley River Z116089 Appl. Ashcroft
KINGSTON & ASSOCIATES LTD
Boulder Creek Z122169 Appl. Hazelton
KISEI INDUSTRIES LTD
Cayoosh Creek Z121430 Appl. Ashcroft
KLITSA CREEK HYDRO INC
Klitsa Creek C11571 License Alberni
KOCH CREEK POWER LTD
Koch Creek Z116176 Appl. Nelson
KOTOWICK DENISE
ZZ Creek (62893) Z102141 Appl. New Westminster
KWOIEK CREEK RESOURCES LIMITED PARTNERSH
Kwoiek Creek Z102749 Appl. Ashcroft
LAKESIDE PACIFIC FOREST PRODUCTS LTD
Slollicum Creek Z102485 Appl. New Westminster
LARSON FARMS INC
Pierce Creek Z117036 Appl. New Westminster
LEDCOR POWER INC
Ashlu Creek C10220 License Vancouver
LOS ZDENEK
Johnny Sandy Creek C12241 License New Westminster
MAY DAVID F
Woodbury Creek C10026 License Kamloops
MURPHY CREEK POWER CORP
Columbia River Z119006 Appl. Nelson
South Nanaimo Rive C11781 License Nanaimo
Coffee Creek Z116469 Appl. Kamloops
Shannon Creek Z117839 Appl. Nelson
NEW ERA HYDRO CORPORATION
Bryant Lake C07219 License Atlin
NORTHRIDGE CANADA ENERGY MANAGEMENT LTD
Tsuius Creek Z116884 Appl. Vernon
PATHEIGER LIZABET
ZZ Creek (80653) Z122742 Appl. New Westminster
PATTISON GEORGE HENRY
ZZ Creek (78929) Z120368 Appl. Prince Rupert
PETERSON WILLIAM JR & KAREN
East Twin Creek C10152 License Prince George
PINGSTON POWER INC
Pingston Creek C11872 License Nelson
POWERHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS INC
Kettle River C10434 License Grand Forks
PRINCE RUPERT CITY OF
Shawatlan Lake Z120867 Appl. Prince Rupert
RAFFUSE ENERGY CORP.
Raffuse Creek Z116247 Appl. Vancouver
REGIONAL POWER INC
Cascade River C11459 License Prince Rupert
REMOTE STRUCTURES INC
Blaeberry River Z120871 Appl. Golden
RENAISSANCE POWER CORP (BOSTON BAR) LTD
Stoyoma Creek Z118027 Appl. New Westminster
RENEWABLE POWER CORP.
Ramona Creek Z122790 Appl. Vancouver
Tzoonie River Z122857 Appl. Vancouver
Tzoonie River Z122857 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (78975) (Z120523 Appl. Vancouver
ZZ Creek (80733) Z122790 Appl. Vancouver
RIBCO LEASING LTD.
Craft Creek Z118320 Appl. Alberni
RING CREEK POWER LTD.
Ring Creek Z117684 Appl. Vancouver
ROBERTSON PETER SMITH RICHARD
Cedar Creek Z121020 Appl. Golden
ROBSON VALLEY POWER CORPORATION
Ptarmigan Creek F115552 License Prince George
ROCKFORD ENERGY CORP
Brandywine Creek C11866 License Vancouver
RUN OF RIVER INC (INC # 0065485)
Gott Creek Z116648 Appl. Ashcroft
RYAN RIVER POWER INC.
Ryan River Z102125 Appl. New Westminster
SEGUARO HOLDINGS LTD
St. Leon Creek Z123000 Appl. Nelson
SNOWSHOE POWER LTD
McIntosh Creek Z122791 Appl. Prince George
SOUND ENERGY INC
Box Canyon Creek Z117326 Appl. Vancouver
SOUTH SUTTON CREEK HYDRO INC
South Sutton Creek C11553 License Alberni
STAINSBY RICHARD D
Yahoo Creek Z116840 Appl. Vancouver
STARLUND MARK ANDREW
Sedan Creek Z117972 Appl. Hazelton
SYNEX ENERGY RESOURCES LTD
Barr Creek Z116387 Appl. Alberni
Cypress Creek C11638 License Alberni
Leiner River Z116386 Appl. Alberni
McKelvie Creek C11638 License Alberni
Mears Creek C11638 License Alberni
Perry River Z122861 Appl. Alberni
Perry River Z122861 Appl. Alberni
Ucona River Z116102 Appl. Alberni
Victoria Lake Z121438 Appl. Alberni
Zeballos River Z116383 Appl. Alberni
Tlatlos Creek Z122980 Appl. Nanaimo
TAKU LAND CORPORATION
Pine Creek C12005 License Atlin
TECK COMINCO METALS LTD
Pend-d'Oreille River C10863 License New Westminster
TERRETON HYDRO CORPORATION
Kicking Horse River Z117624 Appl. Golden
TOBA HOLDINGS LTD
Berg Creek C11943 License Vancouver
UPNIT POWER CORPORATION
China Creek C11855 License Alberni
VALISA ENERGY
Serpentine Creek C11743 License Kamloops
WALSH MICHAEL
Enterprise Creek Z117254 Appl. Nelson

SOLD OUT

The BC government's Energy Policy is rapidly transforming the province's electricity system from one owned and controlled by the people of the Province to one that is operated in the interest of private energy developers and multinational energy corporations.

Professor John Calvert

Simon Fraser University, author of "Liquid Gold"

Key BC Liberal insiders
hired by private power developers

Since the Campbell government gave the green light to private power developers like the Plutonic Power/General Electric partnership, there has been a virtual revolving door in Victoria, as key government officials and senior BC Liberal political advisers have moved from government to lucrative positions in the private power industry. While such individuals are not subject to British Columbia's ethics laws, which prohibit cabinet ministers and some senior staff from lobbying government in the areas governed by their former ministries, the sheer number of former government staffers now working in the private power industry is shocking.

In addition to the hiring of so many key government insiders, the private power industry has provided massive financial donations to the BC Liberal party both before and after Premier Gordon Campbell decided to allow private power access to BC rivers.

Here is a list of all the known former bureaucratic and political staffers now on the payrolls of the private power industry.

Patrick Kinsella, Co-chair of 2001 and 2005 BC Liberal provincial campaigns - has consulted for Alcan, Accenture and now Plutonic Power. Alleged to have worked for both CN and BC Rail as BC Rail was being sold to CN.

David Cyr, former Assistant to BC Liberal Minister Mike de Jong, now a director at Plutonic Power/GE.

Robert Poore, recently worked under the Provincial Revenue Minister of the Province of BC, now a senior director at Plutonic Power/GE.

Tom Syer, former deputy chief of staff to Gordon Campbell, now a director at Plutonic Power/GE.

Bill Irwin, after holding key positions in the BC Ministries of Land and Water, and Crown Lands, now a director at Plutonic Power/GE.

Doug Bishop, formerly 32 years with BC Hydro and Powerex, now with Plutonic Power/GE.

Bruce Ripley spent the last 2 of his 16 years at BC Hydro as VP Engineering, now President and COO of Plutonic Power/GE.

Elisha McCallum (Moreno), after 7 years with BC Hydro as a media relations manager, moved to a directorship with Plutonic Power/GE.

Mark Grant, former executive director of the BC Liberal Party now with Rupert Peace Power.

Bruce Young, has held several high profile positions with the BC Liberal party and lobbied his own party on behalf of Katabatic Power is listed as a director of Atla Energy.

Stephen Kukucha, former senior policy advisor for the BC Ministry of Environment, is now president and CEO of Atla Energy.

Bob Herath, former Assistant Regional Water Manager for the BC Ministry of Environment, now with Syntaris Power.

Paul Taylor, former President and CEO of ICBC as well as high level positions in the BC Government, is now President and CEO of Naikun Wind Energy Group.

Michael J. O'Conner, former President and CEO of Crown Corporation BC Transit, now holds senior positions at Naikun.

Jackie Hamilton, formerly held various BC Government environmental assessment and regulatory management positions, is now a VP at Cloudworks Energy.

Michael Margolick, held positions in resource and strategic planning at BC Hydro, now is the Vice President of Power and Transmission planning at Naikun Wind.

Robert Price, after a 30-year career at BC Hydro and Power Authority which culminated as the utility's Vancouver Island transmission line construction, supervision and operations manager, now a member of the Hawkeye 'team'.

Mr. Paul Adams, after a 33-year career with BC Hydro in which he held senior management positions, now is another 'team' member at Hawkeye.

Ron Monk, former BC Hydro Engineer, now employed by Kerr Wood Leidal engineering firm used by IPPs.

Wayne Chambers, a former BC Hydro power plant and substation operator, now a manager at Cloudworks.

Alexander Kiess, after long career with BC Hydro in management, now works as a consultant to Syntaris Power.

Geoff Plant, former BC Liberal Attorney General, now chair of Renaissance Power.

A biologist's view

I am a biologist fortunate enough to have spent the past 26 years in the wilderness. There I have felt the pulse of the living systems that bring us clean air, water and food. I know now that if you are breathing in BC you have drawn air into your lungs that was produced by a salmon-fed tree. Wild salmon are our bloodstream. The connection between people and the wild things is that close.

Today's Liberal Government in BC is severing that connection, cauterizing the rivers and metastasizing salmon feedlots on our wild salmon arteries. I use these human medicine terms to try and warn you that systems you don't pay for can be even more essential to your well-being than the ones you purchase. We have become numb to the political shut down of our life support systems, even though we would never allow this to a patient in a hospital.

Every week I send Gordon Campbell a letter with 13,000 signatures on it now asking only that the Fisheries Act be applied fair and square on the Norwegian Salmon feedlots as it is applied to the rest of us and in arrogance and disconnect Campbell has not even acknowledged our concern.

We are only asking that the laws of this land be observed... That there is no answer, speaks volumes.

***Alexandra Morton** is a biologist who has courageously taken on the fish farm industry and governments. Her many published scientific accounts of the death of and damage to Pink and Chum salmon smolts by sea lice from adjacent fish farms, has shown beyond doubt, despite all the industry and government propaganda efforts, that fish farms are ruinous to our native wild salmon. Morton's work has been published in such esteemed scientific journals as* Science*, and she has been featured in news publications around the world, including the* New York Times.

www.SaveOurRivers.ca

Save Our Rivers Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our water resources from private ownership and exploatation behind the back of their rightful owners - the citizens of British Columbia. Our Board of Advisors, features a range of luminaries in such fields such as ecology, biology, law, economics, journalism. Their insights and passion inspire and empower Save Our Rivers in the battle to protect BC's watersheds and public energy system.

These are just a few of them:

Naomi Klein is a world-renown Canadian journalist and bestselling author of The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism and her 2000 international bestseller No Logo.

Dr. William E. Rees is the creator of the "eco-footprint" concept and one the world's foremost ecological and sustainability experts.

Hereditary Chief Alfred Scow, C.M., was the first Aboriginal person in BC to graduate from law school (UBC), to become a member of the Bar, and to be appointed to the Bench. He received an Honourary Doctor of Law degree from UBC in 1997 and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2000.

Rex Weyler is a journalist, author, and ecologist – and one of the founding members of Greenpeace International. Weyler's work has appeared in books, magazines, and newspapers including the New York Times, Rolling Stone and National Geographic.

Alexandra Morton is a biologist renown for her fight against fish farming. Morton's work has been published in such esteemed scientific journals as Science, and she has been featured in news publications around the world, including the New York Times.

Dr. John Calvert teaches economics and public policy at Simon Fraser University. He is a leading expert on issues respecting public power and the Campbell government's disastrous Energy Policy.

Dr. Craig Orr has been a professional ecologist for more than 30 years and leads Watershed Watch Salmon Society. Craig also currently serves as Chair of the Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus, Science Coordinator of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform, and as an environmental advisor to Kwikwetlem First Nation.

BC-STV is a big step forward for women

Vote yes for BC-STV and help shatter the glass ceiling

From left: Supporters of BC-STV, Denise Savoie, NDP MP, BC; Judy Rebick, former president, Nat'l. Action Cttee. on the Status of Women; Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada; Deborah Grey, former Deputy Leader, Reform Party of Canada

WHEN IT comes to electing women, Canada ranks 52nd in the world. Of the 51 countries ahead of us, 46 use proportional voting systems. British Columbia currently uses a voting system that consistently produces the worst results for women across the democratic world. Our flawed system marginalizes new voices, re-enforces the status quo and generates male-dominated parliaments.

Proportional systems key

Proportional voting systems, used around the world, produce much better results, giving women their deserved place in government. BC-STV is a modern, well-tested proportional model designed specifically to increase diverse representation in government. Members of the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, half of whom are women, overwhelmingly chose STV for its accountability and stabilizing effect on BC politics.

Multi-member ridings an advantage

The math is simple. BC-STV uses multi-member districts in which parties can run more than one candidate. That offers parties a greater opportunity to present both women and men to the electorate.

Other facts

The Australian Capital Territories has one of the highest rates of women being elected in the world, using STV.

Ireland, using STV, elected 38 percent women to the European Parliament while the UK, using a regional party list system, elected only 23 percent women.

The negative nature of political campaigning can discourage women from participating in elections. BC-STV encourages more constructive debate, as candidates try to secure the "second choice" support of their opponents' supporters.

In Australia, suffragette Catherine Helen Spence and women's organizations such as the Federation of Women Voters campaigned for many decades for the adoption of STV.

We deserve better. It's time to end politics-as-usual in BC. We are a growing grassroots movement of people from across the province uniting to define a new vision for BC.

Women who support BC-STV

- Denise Savoie, MP, Victoria BC
- Deborah Grey, former Reform Party deputy and interim leader
- Jane Sterk, leader, BC Green Party
- Jean Crowder, NDP MP, Nanaimo-Cowichan
- Cara Camcastle, SFU Political Science
- Adrianne Carr, former leader, BC Green Party
- Elizabeth May, leader, Green Party of Canada
- Sylvia Bashevkin, former president, Canadian Political Science Association
- Judy Rebick,Ryerson University, former president, National Action Committee on the Status of Women
- Lois Wilson, former president of World Council of Churches, former Senator.
- Andrea Horwath, Leader, Ontario New Democratic Party
- Blaize Horner Reich, SFU Segal School of Business

Scholars argue that women are likely to be elected in greater numbers under STV because it will encourage parties to change their nomination practices to put forward gender-balanced slates. That, along with more readily available childcare and other supports, would make it easier for women to serve as MLAs. – Donna Stewart, former southern BC representative on the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (1984-6), former federal NDP candidate for North Vancouver-Lonsdale.

From British Columbians for BC-STV, 604-484-2979. www.stv.ca

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Pre-conference Workshops Friday, May 29

- ***Saying Yes to Change: Essential wisdom for your journey*** (J. Borysenko)
- ***Humour and the Spirit of Revitalization for Health Practitioners*** (R. Moody)
- ***Healing at the End of Life: Integrative care practices in palliative and hospice care*** (L. Kozak)
- ***Peace Begins with Me: An exploration into mindfulness*** (M. Sherman)
- ***Reawakening to the Natural World in the Light of the Global Shift*** (A. Schoen)

Post-conference Workshops Sunday, May 31

- ***The Planet in the Window: Exploring Space, Consciousness and Cosmic Connections*** (E. Mitchell)
- ***Finding Centre: The Path Beyond Burnout*** (C. Page)
- ***Horses & Healing at Spirit Gate Farm*** (M. Atterby & O.L. Johnston)
- ***Drawing Inward: Using a pencil to create your own portable oasis*** (J. Thomson)
- ***As Consciousness Expands, Addictions Dissolve*** (A. & J. Flaherty)

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A speech for the people

EARTHFUTURE Guy Dauncey

ENVIRONMENT

DEAR FELLOW citizens of British Columbia:

It is with great honour that I accept the democratic mandate you have given me to act as your Premier for the next four years. We live at a time of unprecedented crisis and opportunity, both for the economy and the environment, and the only thing that stands in the way of progress is negative thinking. There is much to be done, but in the interests of brevity I will limit my talk to five areas where change is urgently needed.

Firstly, whatever the result of the Single Transferable Vote recount, it is clear that some 60 percent of British Columbians want to see more fair and democratic representation. I will, therefore, invite members of BC's two other mainstream parties to join my Cabinet to help us develop the solutions we need.

We will also be encouraging changes in the way your MLAs behave in the Legislature, which has been a matter of grave embarrassment to many of our visitors, especially when they bring children. It is simply not acceptable that elected MLAs should behave in such a rude and uncouth manner. Starting with the new session, we will be installing a soundproof, glass-walled penalty box in the Legislature within full view of the TV cameras. MLAs that misbehave will be issued a yellow card; if they receive two yellow cards in the course of a day, they will be given a red card and be sent to the penalty box for 30 minutes to cool off. I hope this will restore the dignity and respect that has been sorely lacking of late.

We also aim to eliminate homelessness in BC within our four-year term. Starting immediately, all real estate sales will be subject to a five percent tax, generating $6 billion over the next four years. We will give half the money to BC's municipalities to construct 15,000 small, zero-energy, affordable housing units and use the other half to dramatically increase services for the mentally ill and those who suffer from addictions. From now on, we will consider the right to adequate housing a fundamental human right.

I turn now to crime and the recent outbreak of gang violence in Vancouver. To eliminate the cause of this violence, we will act immediately to legalize and regulate the use of marijuana, cocaine and other drugs in BC, eliminating the black market. The government of BC will assume sole responsibility for the distribution of the drugs, which will be taxed appropriately. We will release all prisoners that have been jailed for non-violent drug convictions and I'm sure the income will come in handy as we strive to meet our many goals.

My final topic concerns global climate change, which is a far greater threat to human civilization and Earth's ecosystems than most people realize. If we and the world's other countries do not act immediately to eliminate our carbon footprints, we will condemn our children and coming generations to a steady increase in droughts, floods, famines, forest fires, a sea level that will be 25 metres higher, the extinction of almost half of the world's species and global ruin.

We will, therefore, build on the initiatives of the previous government and work with the people of BC to develop and implement a plan to eliminate 100 percent of BC's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In so doing, we will build a zero-carbon society that will be a valuable showcase for the world, for unless the rest of the world acts too, our efforts will be in vain.

The good news is that by building this new zero-carbon society, we will do to the current economic crisis what World War II did to the Great Depression: we will end it, due to the surge of investment and businesses and jobs it will create. If we succeed globally – and that's a very big if – we will usher in a promising new era of hope and creativity. I hope you will join us so that we can work together as we embark on these important new challenges.

We live at a time of unprecedented crisis and opportunity, both for the economy and the environment, and the only thing that stands in the way of progress is negative thinking.

Guy Dauncey is not the incoming premier of BC. Visit his website at www.earthfuture.com

Let's get it together

SCIENCE MATTERS David Suzuki with Faisal Moola

THE NORTH Coast of BC is one of my favourite places. If you visit this spectacular and ecologically diverse region, you'll see mountains, forests, oceans, sea lions, puffins and whales. If you are fortunate enough to dive into the ocean, you'll see salmon, herring, rockfish, sea anemones, giant scallops, kelp forests, and – deep below – 9,000-year-old glass-sponge reefs.

It's absurd to think that we could manage our activities in such a vast and complex area by having different government departments oversee individual activities in isolation. But that's pretty much the way we've been doing things.

Fortunately, people are beginning to talk about a new way of managing our oceans, a way that's being tested in five large ocean areas in Canada. One of these areas is the North Coast of BC, in a region stretching from northern Vancouver Island to the BC-Alaska border, which the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has labelled the "Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area," or PNCIMA.

The DFO is attempting to engage an integrated management planning process here, in part based on the recognition that everything in nature is interconnected, including human activity. For years, many scientists, resource managers and environmentalists have encouraged government to adopt an ecosystem-based management, or EBM, approach that takes into account all values and interests.

The Federal government's planning processes in the Beaufort Sea, Gulf of St. Lawrence, Eastern Scotian Shelf, Placentia Bay/Grand Banks and Pacific North Coast could set an example for the EBM approach in all of Canada's oceans. Until now, there's been more talk than action.

PNCIMA's integrated management planning process has recently seen some significant breakthroughs, though. In December, DFO signed a formal governance agreement with First Nations in the area to move forward with a marine planning process. And in late March, more than 380 people – including representatives from government, First Nations, coastal communities, marine industries and non-governmental organizations – took part in a two-day forum to discuss management and conservation options for the region.

That so many people from so many walks of life and so many communities were able to come together to discuss the needs of this area shows not just that cooperation is possible, but also that everyone understands the need for urgent action to protect the health of our oceans.

As with most processes involving a multitude of resources, interests and ecological values, government must continue to play a leading role. Even more importantly, our government must provide enough money for scientific research to ensure that decisions are made according to the best local and scientific knowledge.

We don't have a lot of time to waste. Many ocean ecosystems are at tipping points...

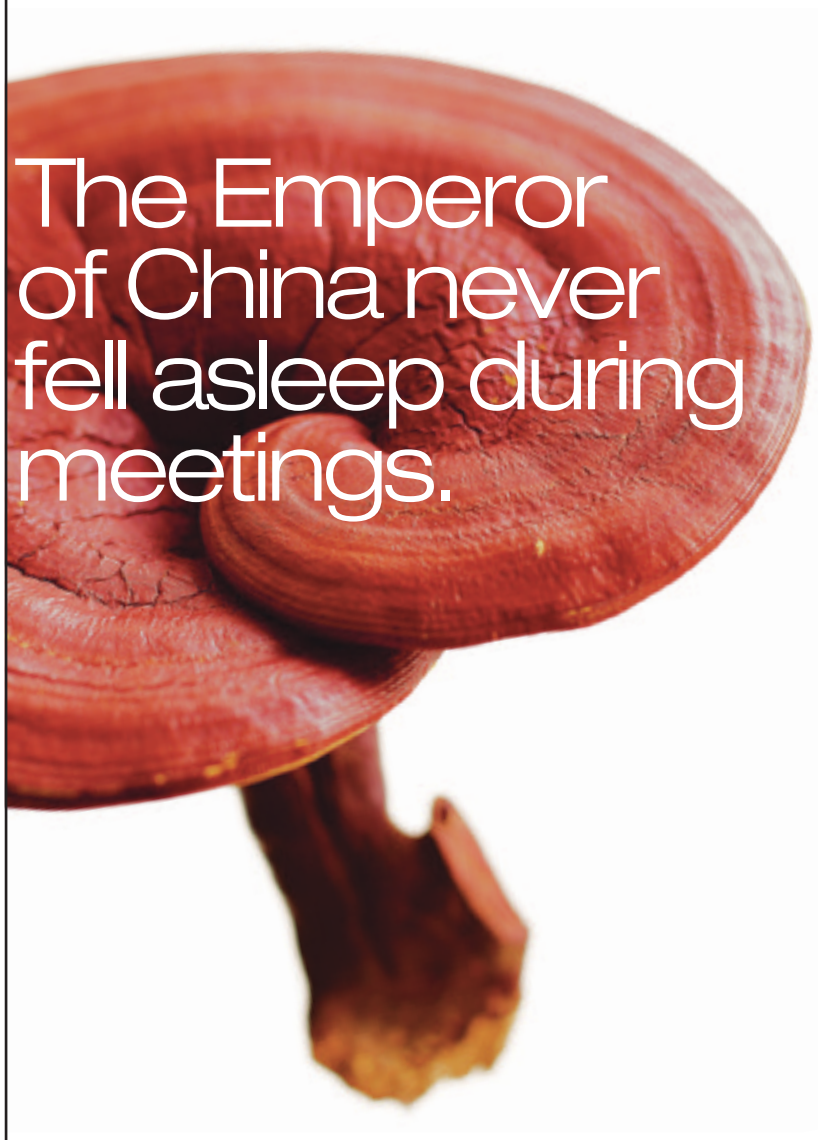
We don't have a lot of time to waste. Many ocean ecosystems are at tipping points, with pollution, resource extraction and industrial impacts contributing to declines in fish, mammal, and other marine-life populations. Add to that the uncertainty about the effects climate change is having on these ecosystems and the need for planning becomes even more urgent.

A credible, long-term plan for any ocean region must include an increase in protected areas where specific types of industrial activity are limited. Canada has the longest coastline of any nation on Earth and 40 percent of our jurisdictional area is ocean, yet the federal government has set aside less than one percent of that as marine protected areas.

I hope governments, First Nations and other interested people will continue the formal dialogue, scientific research and relationship building required to ensure we have intelligent management and conservation in our oceans. I believe most people understand that our own health depends on the health of ocean ecosystems.

I encourage everyone in Canada who cares about the future health of our oceans to let the government know that we want a greater investment in science, management, and conservation so that our oceans stand a fighting chance in an all too uncertain future. For more information, visit www.healthyoceans.ca/

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org



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BC-STV voice for communities

From left: Supporters of BC-STV include Wilf Chelle, Citizens' Assembly, Buick; Bruce Martindale, Councilor, Terrace; Marilyn Belak, Councilor, Dawson Creek; Gwen Johansson, Councilor, Hudson's Hope; Lori Ackerman, Councilor, Fort St. John; Peter Ewart, College instructor and founding member of the Active Voice Coalition, Prince George.

"I have no doubt that BC-STV will significantly improve the quality of local representation by making our MLAs accountable to local voters". – Wilf Chelle, Buick, Citizens' Assembly member

TIRED OF being ignored if you're outside the Lower Mainland? Vote yes for BC-STV. Yes, the ridings will be larger. But each region will still have the same number of MLAs and representation will improve. British Columbians are frustrated with MLAs who just report back on what has been decided in Victoria. We want champions for our communities. Our current system doesn't allow that. BC-STV does.

First Past the Post problems

Shuts whole regions out of cabinet: When a region elects only opposition members, it has no voice at the cabinet table. Imposes iron-clad party discipline: MLAs, once elected, represent their parties first and foremost and their constituents second. Creates a large number of "safe" seats: One party often wins the most votes election after election. When MLAs are chosen at nominating meetings, not the ballot box, they owe their loyalty to their party and not their constituents.

Serves only the largest community: Since only 40-50 percent of voters elect somebody, MLAs usually reside in, and serve, the largest community. Wastes votes: A majority of voters often do not have an MLA that represents their perspective. Undervalues MLAs from outside urban centres: With the majority of seats in urban areas, MLAs from outside the Lower Mainland are unable to stand up for their communities, even when in government.

Single Transferable Vote solutions

Gives regions a voice in cabinet: Most districts would elect at least one member from the governing party. No region left out of cabinet.

More Independent-minded MLAs: Knowing that popular independents can get elected allows an MLA to push back against excessive party discipline on critical local issues.

All seats are competitive: The voters have the final say on which of a party's candidates they prefer. Parties can take no district for granted.

Promotes MLAs across the district: It takes around 20,000 votes to get elected so MLAs need votes from smaller communities. MLAs can come from across the district, not just the largest centre. Real choice: If an MLA doesn't serve their community, voters can choose another without having to switch parties. The calibre of MLAs will improve; only a party's best will be elected.

Makes more votes count: In two or three-member ridings, 66-75 percent of voters help elect an MLA. A majority of voters will have representation.

BC-STV: Re-balancing power

BC-STV will make Interior, Northern BC and rural communities more valuable to political parties than they are now. Here's why: regardless of the district size, virtually every STV district has one swing seat.

Just compare the Lower Mainland to an area with smaller centres: In Vancouver-West Side, the Liberals will likely win three or four seats, the NDP two or three seats and the Greens zero or one seat. The same swing situation will occur in Kootenay-Columbia where the Liberals will likely win one or two seats, the NDP two or three seats, and the Greens zero or one seat.

Northern, Interior and rural districts will be of equal political value to parties as those in the Lower Mainland. In each case, for each party, one seat is effectively up for grabs. When a seat hangs in the balance, that area increases in "value" to political parties. With BC-STV, virtually every district will contain one swing seat. What is at stake for a party in a district outside the Lower Mainland is equivalent to an urban district. Therefore, under BC-STV, smaller communities will become more "valuable" to political parties than they are under First Past the Post.

Local representation a top priority for the Citizens' Assembly

The Citizens' Assembly knew that local representation is extremely important for all of BC and critical in the North and Interior. Members were surprised to hear voters from across the province tell them that our current first past the post system fails to deliver effective local representation.

British Columbians told the Citizens' Assembly that they wanted a fair and proportional system with more responsive local representation and greater voter choice. There are many proportional systems and some have local representation based on our current failed model. Only STV provides voters with greater choice at the local level. Only STV makes local contests more competitive and MLAs more accountable to their constituents. Only STV gives MLAs some leverage to champion important local issues with government.

The Citizens' Assembly chose BC-STV in large part because it puts the voters in charge at the local level.

Frequently asked questions:

Will the Interior, North and smaller centres lose MLAs?

Each region of BC will have the same number of MLAs as they do with FPTP. BC-STV simply groups the same number of seats into multi-member districts.

Will MLAs all come from the largest town?

MLAs will come from across the district rather than clustering in the largest centre. How come? Since 80-90 percent of all voters elect MLAs, votes from the smaller communities make a difference.

Will the districts be too large?

Regardless of the electoral system, there will always be large spread-out regions in the north and other parts of BC. In the north, these new districts are significantly smaller than the federal ridings, but they have two or three MLAs and the quality of representation improves.

From British Columbians for BC-STV, 604-484-2979. www.stv.ca

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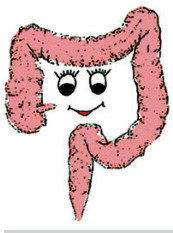

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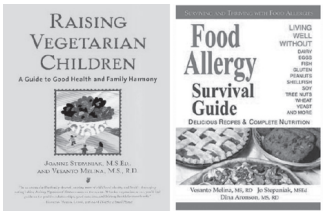

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– Sean O'Casey

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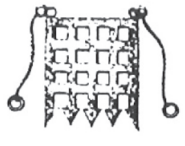

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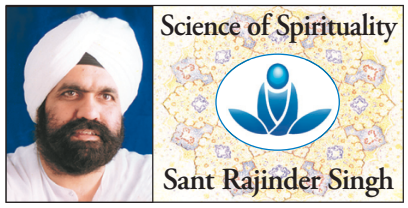

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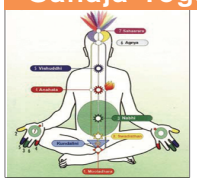

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Daryl Hannah up a tree trying to save an urban farm in LA from being bulldozed.

Soul force at work

FILMS WORTH WATCHING Robert Alstead

IN THE 2004 feature documentary *Scared Sacred* (www.nfb.ca/film/scared_sacred), activist filmmaker Velcrow Ripper went to what he called the "ground zeroes" of the planet – post 9/11 New York, Bhopal, Hiroshima – in search of hope in humanity's darkest hours.

With his latest feature documentary, *Fierce Light: When Spirit Meets Action,* Ripper leads us once again through the shadows, although here his quest for truth and understanding stems from a more personal tragedy. In October of 2006, Ripper's friend, journalist Brad Will, was shot dead while filming protests in Oaxaca, Mexico. "Brad's death shook me to the core," says Ripper in the film's narrative. The tragedy sets him questioning the relationship between two aspects of himself – the activist filmmaker and the spiritual self and how they work together.

As he crosses the globe, following stories of activists that took huge risks for a cause, you begin to get a sense of what he means when he says, "I feel tremors of a volcanic spirit starting to build all over the globe to the cry 'Another world is possible.'"

In what is a poetic call to heartfelt action, Ripper asks how, with the batons and blows raining down, activists maintain their composure and the certainty of their convictions. Civil rights activist, now congressman, John Lewis, says even after being beaten and left for dead during the Bloody Sunday march of 1965 in Selma, Alabama, hatred and violence were never an option. "We just gotta love the hell out of them," Lewis recalls his mentor Martin Luther King saying to him.

Ripper reflects on the ideas of Gandhi, who called this inner strength "soul force" or "truth force" and whose nonviolent doctrine has been taken up by generations of activists. The documentary regularly revisits a protest to save a large, urban farm in South Central Los Angeles from being bulldozed for development. Clearly, this little piece of Eden is cherished by and has enriched the hundreds of people, young and old, who cultivate it. The farm's plight is splashed across the news, as actress Daryl Hannah and Julia Butterfly Hill, famed for her two-year tree-sit in the "Luna" redwood, decide to hold out in the branches in an act of civil disobedience. As the drama unravels, Ripper succeeds in showing the importance of the action in bringing people together and raising consciousness, even if the goals of the action are not fully realized.

Considering the film covers so much pain and violence (I'd forgotten quite how awful that Rodney King beating was), its stories are often quietly inspirational. Ripper melds mythology and spiritual practice with a meditative soundtrack and fluid, metaphorical imagery so that it almost washes over you. The theatrical release is set for May 15.

The Pacific Cinematheque has a mini season of BC film and television work – awards for which take place May 8. Well worth a look is *Carts of Darkness*, profiling North Vancouver men who combine binning with shopping-cart racing down steep North Van mountain roads. The doc, nominated in six categories, shows with *Warrior Boyz* on May 1, with director Murray Siple in attendance. Now that the NFB has opened its archive for online viewing, you can watch the full film at www.nfb.ca/film/carts_of_darkness/

The controversial and lucrative trade in wild dolphins is the subject of *The Dolphin Dealer* (PCP, May 2, 5pm). The Leo-nominated doc follows former Vancouver Aquarium trainer Christopher Porter, who exports dolphins from his Solomon Islands base for $100,000 a head to marine parks around the world. Critics include Ric O'Barry, a former trainer for television's *Flipper.* The 44-minute doc screens as a double bill with *Blowdown*, a documentary about the demolition of a Cape Canaveral rocket launch tower.

Robert Alstead writes at www.2020vancouver.com

Social media, social change

INDEPENDENT MEDIA Steve Anderson

CULTURE

If users actualize values of cooperation, collaboration, voluntarism, sharing and trust in their social interactions online, this surely has implications for social engagement offline. – Kate Milberry

SOCIAL MEDIA tools like Facebook and Twitter are all the rage these days. We often hear about the incredible potential of social media or, conversely, their lack of relevance, compared to traditional media. But what exactly are social media?

Social media are the web-based tools, applications, spaces and practices that people use to interact with each other and share information online. For example, social networks like Facebook, Twitter and MySpace provide online tools that can be used for sharing media and engaging in online conversations while also providing users with online, personal space that forms a repository of shared media and social interactions.

Social media are more participatory than most traditional (offline) media. With a traditional medium like television, audience members are passive participants, consuming content that has been produced by others. In stark contrast, online social media represent something of a return to a pre-print oral culture – more of an ongoing dialogue than a form of production and consumption – in the form of commentary, anecdotes and shared stories (in various forms).

Through social media, the means of communication and producing social meaning, narratives and values have been returned to what Dan Gillmor calls "the people formally known as the audience." Canada has a remarkably vibrant social media community. According to Michael Geist, we have the second highest per capita usage of Facebook in the world. Our cities are also stacked with revered social media innovators and well-followed media and technology commentators, many of whom reach thousands of people with the mere stroke of a key.

Most importantly, the use of social media enables the large portion of society that has access to its tools to connect with endless numbers of people, and in real time. Social media facilitate the mobilization of people who are able to unite under common fronts via their cell phone or computer. The remarkable movement for fair copyright legislation in Canada – the result of an uprising of concerned Internet users – is testament to its power. The 1.5 million American citizens that lobbied politicians in 2007, demanding an open Internet, is another example of how these tools can be used to mobilize for social change.

The use of social media is also enabling a plethora of offline meet-ups, collaborations and events. Many of these offline activities are, in part, inspired by and infused with the collaborative practices and values associated with social media. "Unconferences," for instance, are a new form of radically democratic conferences inspired by open-source software development processes.

Many conferences revolving around technology or media issues are now set up as unconferences where participants direct the conference through a combination of online chat/wiki technologies and face-to-face interactions. BarCamp, for example, is a series of technology-focused unconferences which, as explained on the BarCamp website, are formatted as an "ad-hoc gathering born from the desire for people to share and learn in an open environment." (www.barcamp.org)

These unconferences take an element of online social media practices, like distributed decision-making, and apply it to offline activities. BarCamp co-founder Ryan King "figured there was much more expertise in the audience than there possibly could be onstage." New media commentator Kate Milberry notes, "If users actualize values of cooperation, collaboration, voluntarism, sharing and trust in their social interactions online, this surely has implications for social engagement offline."

Social media are key tools for social change, reinvigorating local communities and opening up government. For example, this year, a new set of autonomous local conferences called ChangeCamp are underway where citizens and government workers gather to address the question "How do we re-imagine government and citizenship in the age of participation?"

There are many valid concerns about Internet usage, the digital divide and the social surveillance undertaken by the owners of commercial social media platforms. But with current economic, political and ecological challenges in mind, the social experiments enabled by social media are more than necessary and potentially critical to finding our way through these challenges.

Steve Anderson is the national coordinator for the Campaign for Democratic Media. He contributed to Censored 2008 *and* Battleground: The Media, *and has written for* The Tyee, Toronto Star, Epoch Times *and* Adbusters. *Reach him at:*
steve@democraticmedia.ca
www.FacebookSteve.com
www.SteveOnTwitter.com

Almost out of hibernation

THIRTY SOMETHING *Ishi Dinim*

AT THE TIME of writing, I've spent the last five days nursing a mean flu. Probably lost about 10 pounds and who knows how many hours of sleep? It's funny how humbling life can be. I was scared to touch my family for fear of infecting them.

Lately, I've been having these wonderful staring contests with my daughter. I'm not sure exactly what she's communicating, but there is definitely great wisdom behind those eyes and I'm convinced that I'm starting to learn how to speak baby.

I've been lying awake at night drenched in sweat, shivering, my mind racing. I wonder why things are the way they are. My world here in Vancouver seems perfect, even with all the contradictions of this place. I get stuck thinking about the world's problems and don't see many solutions. I like to believe that I'm a good problem solver. I try to escape my small-amount ideas and think of something new. When I ask myself, "Why do people hurt other people?" I'm baffled and can only shake my head. So I distract myself, filling my time with inconsequential activity.

If this seems a bit all over the place, it is. I can barely focus on anything except for the pain in my body and the high fever; it's like trying to form an idea in a pot of boiling water. I called around and asked people to help inspire me.

My friend Dave told me I should write about how we're all living so close together yet we're mostly isolated. There is a naïve first world independence that says we don't need anybody else, just more money, and we'll be okay. How do we show that we care for others? Starting with our family and then rippling out. Are we consciously doing our best to let people know we're there for them? People get drunk and hug each other about hockey wins, but don't have the time for a homeless person.

I've heard that our generation is not involved in volunteerism anymore and that there isn't time or motivation for activism. I know this isn't entirely true, but it's frightening to ponder if it is. On a brighter note, I called my sister Maili and she said I should write about all the blossoms and flowers and chances to bare our arms. She said I should write about the birds and the bees. Then I laughed. Maybe that means I'm getting better

Quotes:

Quit worrying about your health. It'll go away. – Robert Orben

The average, healthy, well-adjusted adult gets up at seven-thirty in the morning feeling just plain terrible. – Jean Kerr

Be silent as to services you have rendered, but speak of favours you have received. – Seneca

Ishi graduated from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 2001, with a BFA major in photography. He makes films, collects cacti and ponders many things. Currently, he is doing what he can for himself and the planet. contactishi@yahoo.ca

Waiting to hear echoes back…

Datebook

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MAY 6
Introduction to dreams & dream travel/astral. Short sound healing. 7pm. 10 people. Prepaid donation to reserve 604-734-3354. www.psychicstudio.ca

MAY 8
Full Moon Festival of Spring, Wesak – join us for a presentation and group meditation for world service. Presentation 7pm, Friday, YWCA Hotel, 733 Beatty, CANFOR Room. Donations gratefully accepted.

MAY 8-10
Basic ThetaHealing Certification Workshop in Vancouver with Loretta Mohl. Information: www.CanadianCollegeofHealingArts.com Call: 780-910-5052 or email Loretta@CanadianCollegeofHealingArts.com

MAY 9
WESAK Meditation: 7:30pm – St. George's Place, 2950 Laurel St. (at 14th), Vancouver. Doors open 7pm. Please wear white attire.

Shamanic Drumming & Dreaming Circle: 7-10pm. Insight/healing from your Nature Spirit Animal Totem guardians. Vancouver Multi-Cultural Society, 1254 W. 7th. By donation. Earthsong Healing Circles. 604-418-9636. www.shamanichealing.info

MAY 10
Raw Food Chef Certification! Our fundamental course teaches how to go raw and make delicious meals! 2-6pm $150 Call:778.839.8424, www.rawteacher.com/missjanice

MAY 14
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MAY 15-17
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MAY 24
The Witches' Esbat*: An introduction to moon magick taught in the Reclaiming Tradition. May 24, 6:30-9:30pm. $20. Shadow, shadowmf@telus.net

Nature of Mind; Tape 2 of 4 Krishnamurti-philosopher, Bohm-physicist, Hidley-psychiatrist, Sheldrake-biologist. DVD-4PM; Dialogue-5:15-6:30pm. Planetarium. Donation. Information: 604-734-7774.

MAY 29
Introduction to Foot Reflexology commences Certificate Weekend Training Course. Introduction 7.30pm, $10, Course $325. Pacific Institute of Reflexology (604) 875-8818. www.pacificreflexology.com

MAY 29-31
Spirit Heals Integrative Medicine Conference: An exploration of spirituality in health and Healing. Victoria, BC. Info & registration: www.spiritheals.ca See display ad.

MAY 30
Conscious Belief: Moving Beyond our Limitations. Learn how Beliefs affect our Cellular Body, Energy and Spirit. 10am–4pm. $90 Call: 604-730-1777. www.shamanreiki.ca

MAY 31
Adam dreamhealer workshop - experience self- empowerment as adam, molecular Biologist, international best-selling author, speaker & energy healer Orchestrates 2 unique group healings. All registration on-line at www.dreamhealer.com (MAY 3: Toronto JUN 28: Edmonton)

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at 604.921.6981 or jmierau@telus.net

Classifieds

Free, anonymous, telephone support line: Guided meditations for people suffering from chronic pain. Non-religious. Counselors have community crisis line training. 7-11PM, 604-936-5683.

SOS (Science of Spirituality): See Resource Directory listing in Spiritual Practices for schedule in Richmond, Vancouver & Victoria. 604-277-1247. All Welcome. www.sos.org

TUESDAYS
Reflexology Student Clinic 6 – 10pm One hour sessions $18. By appointment only. Pacific Institute of Reflexology
(604) 875-8818 www.pacificreflexology.com

WEDNESDAYS
Hawaiian Medicine Circle 7pm Hawaiian guided meditation, Sharing the Aloha, tea and snacks. $10 donation. At Hale Ola, 1215 Madison Avenue, Burnaby. 604-431-7474 Call Kamu Kaimana.

FRIDAYS
"Destiny Dialogues" Free Talks First Friday of each month, experiential evening that explores the inter-connections between destiny and suffering, relationships, vocations, joy, teachers, character, nature, family, dreams. 7-9pm. 604-317-1613.

Give Peace A Chant! Energize yourself with the yoga of KIRTAN, Sanskrit call and response yoga chanting, healing mantras and sound vibrations in a friendly community setting. No experience necessary. New schedule: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday nights only, 7:30 pm, $10-20 by donation, 2111 W. 16th Ave @ Arbutus, www.givepeaceachant.org

Just Dance!
Three Fridays a month. Alcohol & smoke-free. 9pm, 2114 W. 4th Ave. @ Arbutus. $10/5. www.justdance.ca.

ONGOING
Free Meditation Workshop: Experience Kundalini awakening through Sahaja Yoga, as taught by Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi & enjoy your Powers at our Weekly classes, always free and open to all. 604-597-8440, www.sahajayoga.org.

Unitarian kids believe in their ability and responsibility to make a difference in the world. Programs for kids 3 years and up, 370 Mathers St., West Vancouver, 604-926-1621, www.nsuc.ca

Littlehuge Divination Circles™ Be empowered! Reconnect with the blessed mystery at the heart of things. Find your own answers to life's questions. Realize your full human potential with Kathie Wallace, 30 years experience. Free introduction May 6 7:00, 3630 West 4 Ave, 604-324-7053.

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REIKI

EXPERIENCE GENTLE AND POWERFUL REIKI, capable of bringing lasting change by eliminating your source of discomfort to manifest inner harmony. Laurence: Commercial Drive Vancouver, 604-568-4663.

RETREATS

SPA FOR THE SOUL! Queenswood Retreat Centre, Victoria. Individual or group retreats. Counseling, spirituality library, trails, bodywork, pool. www.queenswoodcentre.com, 250-477-3822.

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SKIN DISEASE TREATMENT

DR. ANDY ZHOU, PHD, expert diagnosis and treatment, 604-736-6060, drandyzhou@gmail.com, www.TCMdermatologist.com (See ad in Resource Directory, Health & Healing.)

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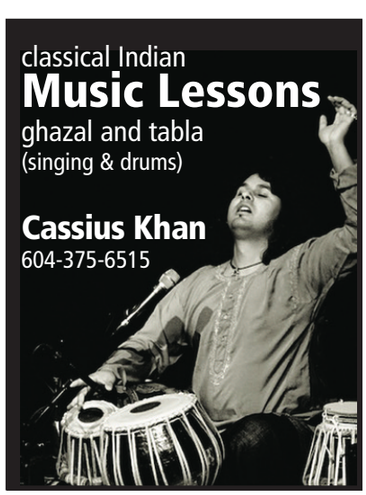

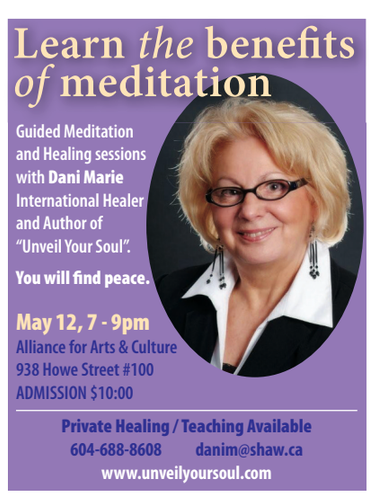

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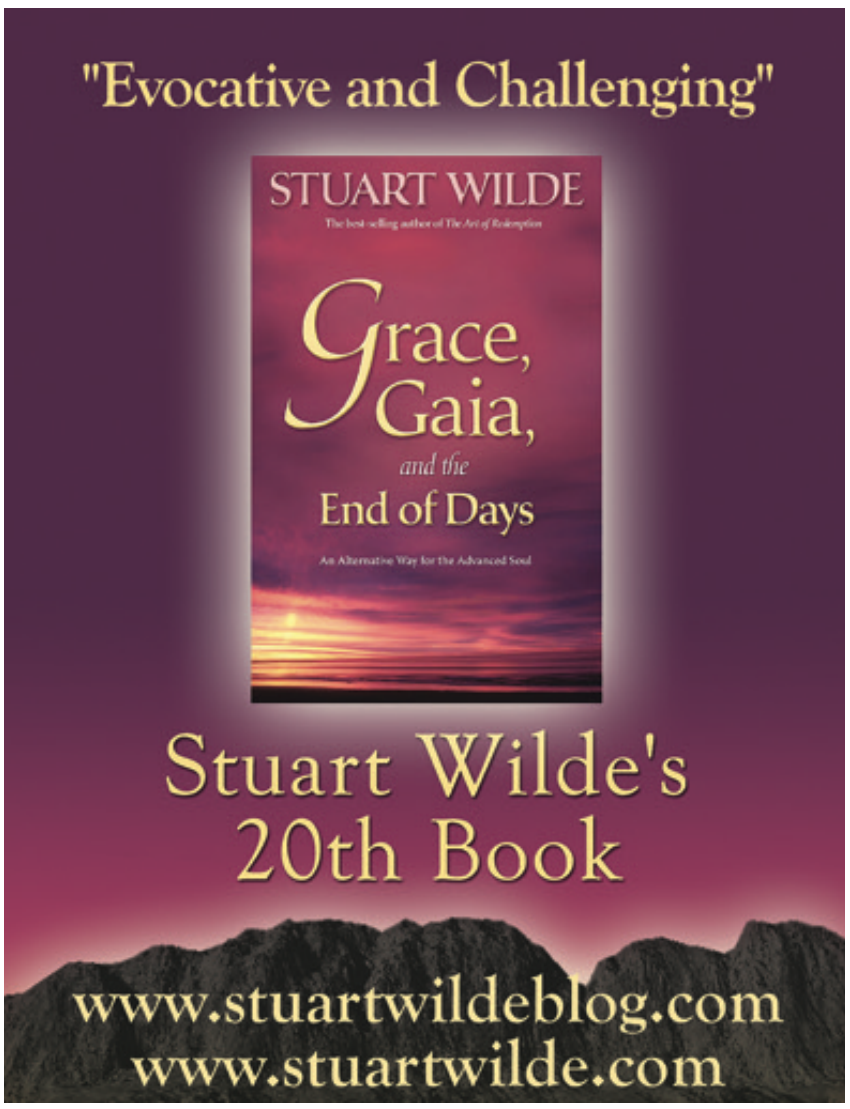

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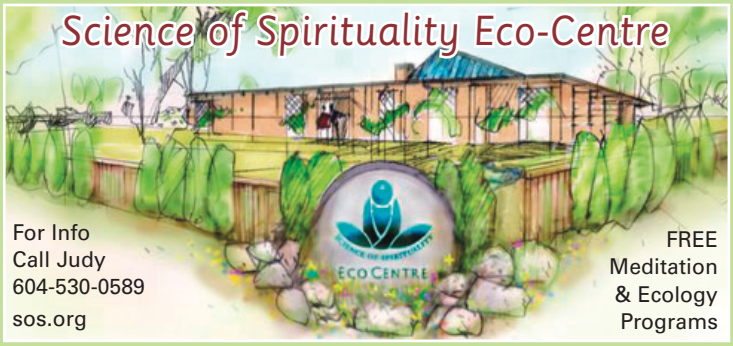

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On Track Zodiac

MAY 2009 Adrien Dilon

ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
You might feel a sense of balance within your inherent male and female sides. The yin/yang of your being will access one aspect while it complements the other. Many social agreements will occur and your relationships will match the way you feel. Rapport and harmony are yours.

TAURUS (Apr 20 – May 21)
If a sense of urgency causes you to feel you must rush into something, stop and sit quietly. Something that feels too good to be true could be exactly that. This storm of ideas could rain down disappointment if you don't look behind every corner and check every detail. Steady on.

GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 20)
Behold the scribe. Cherish those words that come to you in the night and impress upon you the desire to write what your heart needs to speak. Inspire others while you uphold faith in yourself. All comes easily now and you can be the craftsman of your inner provocation and excitement.

CANCER (Jun 21 – Jul 22)
If you find yourself muttering that life is presently diabolical and confounding, fear not. The idle talk that resides in your mind is simply that – all in your mind. You may feel like a sponge lately, but this is a product of planetary motion. Swerve you mind into as much happiness as possible.

LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 22)
You may want to find as many ways to relax as possible. The next little while might be a bit frustrating, so before you set your teeth on edge, think short-term. Simply do an "about-face" on any hasty decisions where your emotions get the best of you.

VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sep 22)
Your fundamental nature is one of the most scrupulous and exacting. If you feel the smallest amount of insecurity, you could go from one extreme to another. If you make a mountain out of a molehill or choose to ignore obvious signs that your life is in disarray, perhaps try complimenting yourself more often.

LIBRA (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
A few minor setbacks could have you wanting to drop everything and feel some vexation. If you could go and symbolically "kick the can" down a nice country road, it would be an optimum idea. Try not to disengage from your principals in any upcoming challenges.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
Be prepared to wait out an emotional storm within. You may feel like a caged tiger while whirling dervishes dance in your head and inspire you. Although it is not the time to make any strict decisions, your creativity is at an all time high. Ride the wave of bliss.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Being grateful might be the path to take if you are feeling the slightest bit resentful. Comparisons are odious and might bring out your shadow side. This is not a bad thing; it may serve to show you what you need to learn and what's needed to eliminate your suffering.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Some life-changing thoughts may have you asking if the choices you've recently made were a fantasy or genuine in existence. Perhaps you had everything perfectly plotted out. If you think that you have it all sussed, you have another think coming. Reality wakes up the illusion.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
A mystery could be laid upon your table when you least expect some fascinating news. So many riddles come to light as your present perceptions turn upside down. Appearances show that nothing is real, yet it's exactly how things are. You could sit back and watch some dramas unfold. Truth will out.

PISCES (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
There might be an intuitive nudge within that suggests a move may be your next cosmic circumstance. Short trips, inner journeys or an actual change of residence may delight you and give you a fresh start. Happy springtime and a toast to all endeavours.

Adrien Dilon is a clairvoyant consultant and author with 34 years of experience in astrology, multi-media art and healing, adrien.dilon@gmail.com.

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